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THE COMMUNICATOR

Volume 36, Issue 13 | Wednesday, November 30, 2005 | 10 Pages, Free

Campus Ministry stresses community impact

By Courtney Eyer
ceyer@ipfwcommunicator.org

One of the oldest organizations on campus is IPFW's Campus Ministry. Begun in the late 60s as a venue for students to go for personal counseling and support, the organization has expanded over the decades to become the Campus Ministry of Greater Fort Wayne, including the IPFW and the Indiana Institute of Technology campuses.

Campus Ministry offers several opportunities for students to become involved in their organization. The group also strives to help students in their quest for spirituality. According to the Campus Ministry website, the group seeks "to provide programs and opportunities that are both helpful and hope-filled to all facets of the campus community."

The group recently accepted donations for Operation Christmas Child, filling shoeboxes with gifts for children half a globe away. They also donated a sizeable number of goods to the Stuff the Semi drive on campus. Yet, community involvement is only one of the organization's numerous activities.

"We emphasize being real with one another and providing a safe place to explore spiritual issues and a consideration of the claims of Jesus Christ," said Ben Gates, Gates has been the director of Campus Ministry for nine years.

When he began the group was extremely small, consisting of only two to three regularly active students. Since then, the group has blossomed into one of the most active groups on campus, with a membership of nearly 70 students.

The organization now maintains two permanent staff members and offers internships for third-year ministry students doing campus ministry 10 hours per week. The interns come predominantly from Taylor University and Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.

Wednesday night Conversations are held weekly and, according to Gates, are catered "toward folks who may not be Christians but who are spiritually curious."

The Conversations are topic-centered and student-led small groups are formed for more personal discussion. "What students will find at these meetings is acceptance, tolerance of diversity of opinion, potential friendship and a brief presentation of what the Bible says about a particular topic," Gates said.

On the third Thursday of every month, Campus Ministry sponsors a University Religious Forum highlighting speakers in numerous fields. A recent forum focused on the Christian elements in popular works of fantasy fiction such as the "Chronicles of Narnia" by C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" and the Harry Potter series of children's books by J.K. Rowling. Pam Jordan, professor of English at Taylor University-Fort Wayne was the presenter and she discussed the intersection of Christian tenets with these works of fiction.

To Gates, the consideration of Christian ideas in popular fiction, in a venue such as the forum, will provide the greater student body with an awareness of the group's existence. The public nature of topics such as popular fiction will also benefit the ultimate goal of Campus Ministry, to increase interaction between the campus and the community. The inclusion of the various local campuses and the numerous opportunities for individuals to get involved all display the success Campus Ministry is having.

New group promotes acceptance

By Sam Win
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DiversEquality was founded in order to promote and strive for equality among all people, no matter the race, age, gender, religion or ability. Membership in DiversEquality is open to all IPFW students with membership dues set at five dollars per semester or an equivalent in-kind commitment.

Membership and participation is free from discrimination and harassment per the policies of the IPFW Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct.

KaSondra Villalon, president of DiversEquality introduced the officers, "Sara Lower is our vice-president, Fernanda Acosta is our Treasurer and the first official member is Angela Radford."

Although Villalon lives far from campus, she enjoys serving as president of the student association.

She is a Spanish teaching major with a minor in music and has been attending IPFW since the fall of 2002.

She revealed part of her life saying, "I live in Akron, Indiana, which is an hour and a half southwest of Fort Wayne, but I was born and raised in Fort Wayne. I have one younger brother who just graduated from Snider High School, which is where I graduated as well. I have been married since March 3rd of this year to my husband Rafael Villalon. I work as a Spanish teacher at Most Precious Blood Middle School here in Fort Wayne."

Villalon also explained how the DiversEquality student organization was founded.

"Fernanda and I are the organizers and founders of the group as well as the officers. We just started last year. We took over the existing group-Coalition for Social Justice."

Villalon stressed the organization's importance.

"I believe that our group is very important for the IPFW campus as well as the general public because our main goal is trying to educate those that may seem different from them which in turn brings people to a better understanding of others and brings down stereotypes."

The group is organizing a number of events focused on disproving the stereotypes which abound in our society. Villalon was excited about IPFW Idol, one of the events they are planning.

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Innovation Center opened

By Courtney Eyer
ceyer@ipfwcommunicator.org

Photo by Amie Sarka / asarka@ipfwcommunicator.org

OPEN: The Northeast Indiana Innovation Center is in its third week of operations. The center is aimed at stopping the "brain drain" affecting all parts of the state.

The Northeast Indiana Innovation Center was recently opened adjacent to the IPFW campus. The NIIC is a venue welcoming innovative and unique ideas that may benefit technologically savvy businesses in the area.

The Center opened to much fanfare on Nov. 16. The dedication ceremony featured Fort Wayne Mayor Graham Richard, State Senator Robert Meeks, and several luminaries from IPFW.

The ultimate goal of the NIIC, as outlined on the center's website, is to diversify, improve and build the economy of northeastern Indiana through technological advance. In doing so, the center is striving to develop the community's overall vitality. The programs offered by the NIIC focus on high-tech endeavors and their implementation in the workplace.

Karl LaPan, president and CEO of the NIIC, looks forward to the impact the Center can have. "The Innovation Center has achieved an important milestone with the opening of our new campus adjacent to IPFW. It is northeast Indiana's only Certified Technology Park, and companies growing in both our locations – Production Road and Stellhorn Road – have already made a significant regional and national impact on the economic and technological development of Fort Wayne and northeast Indiana."

One program, the Core Incubation System, is centered on aiding NIIC clients in four major areas: comprehensive business assistance, capital access and referral programs, entrepreneurship education, and incubator services and amenities. By focusing on these areas, the NIIC will encourage technological progress throughout the region.

Another program discussed on the website and dubbed the Digital Kids Initiative collaborates with the "educational establishment to provide 21st century learning experiences" to children at all levels of education. The introduction of individuals to technological innovations at an early age allows for comfort and ease when encountering these innovations on the job.

"Anyone interested in the future of our community-whether it be venture formation, jobs creation, economic development, educational advancement or technological innovation-will find a lot to see at the new Innovation Center," LaPan said.

Inside the new facility is over 40,000 square feet of space with biomedical wet lab suites, modular IT suites, executive offices, conference rooms and both training and wellness centers.

The center is a non-profit venture.

Program looking for more help

■ The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities is searching for students to assist in its efforts

By Courtney Eyer
ceyer@ipfwcommunicator.org

The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) is looking for both work-study students and volunteers to help during the upcoming spring semester.

In addition to the extensive need for the spring semester, the SSD office is in search of proctors for the imminent fall exams. IPFW has over 300 students with disabilities and the SSD office provides students with a variety of necessary resources. Therefore, they have a number of work-study and volunteer opportunities available.

The office has positions such as student office assistants, who are responsible for general office and clerical duties; reader aides, who read academic materials to students with visual impairment and often assist with research both in the library and on the computer and exam center assistants, who are responsible for the production of alternate format exam materials, reading exams aloud to students and the proctoring of exams to students.

> The SSD office mission is to ensure equal access for students with disabilities to all facets of university life and to provide or coordinate support services and programs for students with disabilities.

Participation in these positions would be educational and gratifying. "I believe it would be very rewarding. Students would learn about different types of disabilities, learning strategies and assistive technology," said Ana Waskiewicz, Learning Disabilities and Accomodations Specialist for SSD.

According to Waskiewicz, students from a variety of disciplines can benefit from the experience at SSD. Education, psychology, sociology, communication and human service majors would all acquire valuable skills through volunteering. The SSD office understands the time limitations college students face and work around the schedules of prospective workers.

"We understand that school work comes first," said Waskiewicz. "Usually, student workers are offered about 15 hours per week. We are quite flexible in terms of hours. We are looking for students who are reliable and responsible."

Other services offered by the SSD office include sign language interpretation or transcription, coordination of special classroom equipment for students with mobility limitations and the maintenance of an adaptive equipment computer lab.

In this specialized lab, students with disabilities can utilize voice recognition programs, wireless and specialized computer keyboards and mice and other specialized software, such as magnification software.

While the educational support is most noticeable, advising and counseling services are also available for students with disabilities through the SSD office.

"The SSD office mission is to ensure equal access for students with disabilities to all facets of university life and to provide or coordinate support services and programs for students with disabilities," said Susan Borror, Director of SSD.

The office is planning an expansion of their website where students can go to find out more about the SSD office and the opportunities for involvement.

Public perception is often the greatest obstacle for people with disabilities.

A pamphlet available in the SSD office published by the Indiana Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities stresses the negative impact individual attitudes may have.

There are over 54 million Americans with disabilities; understanding through education is one effective way to produce a considerate environment for people with disabilities. Volunteering with SSD can provide this education, making it a beneficial opportunity for everyone involved.

The SSD office is located in the Walb Student Union, room 113. A workforce of certified professionals assist those on campus with disabilities along their educational path. The office also functions as a consultant to the university regarding all disability issues.

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Ultimate frisbee at IPFW

■ The PLEX is now hosting Winter Ultimate Frisbee, a sport that is co-sponsored by The Fort Wayne Ultimate Club

By Sam Win
swin@ipfwcommunicator.org

At the PLEX this winter there will be a new sport: Winter Ultimate Frisbee. The Fort Wayne Ultimate Club (FWUC) is co-sponsoring it with the PLEX.

Michael Kanning has been employed at IPFW since October 2002.

An IPFW security officer and the manager of applications in IT Services, Kanning has played Ultimate Frisbee with FWUC for about four years.

"The sport of Ultimate Frisbee is played on a football field with a stationary thrower and a constantly moving team of receivers like soccer. The disk is moved down the field in a series of quick throws, and a score comes when the Frisbee is caught in the end zone," Kanning said.

The rules of Ultimate Frisbee are relatively simple. Kanning continued, "If the disk is dropped or intercepted, it immediately goes over to the other team.

Ultimate involves nonstop running and quick shifts from offense to defense. It is played by both women and men, particularly college students and twenty some things, but also includes many players in their 40s and 50s."

Kanning has also spoken with Ron Clark, Director of Intramural Sports at IPFW, who is exploring the possibility of making Ultimate Frisbee an Intramural sport on a trial basis.

"This is a great opportunity for students, and may turn into an Intramural opportunity soon if the response is good. Some Universities, including IU and Ball State, have club teams that play competitively. FWUC has discussed working with IPFW students in the past to make this a reality."

Kanning seemed eager to get the word out about Fort Wayne's own Ultimate Frisbee club. "Fort Wayne Ultimate Club is a group of people who put together a summer Ultimate Frisbee league each year.

Last year FWUC partnered with the PLEX to hold a first-ever Indoor Winter Ultimate League for eight weeks played December through February on Sunday evenings."

Discussing the indoor sports complex, Kanning stressed the superiority of the venue and pointed out the location.

"The PLEX is Fort Wayne's premiere indoor sports complex and home of Hefner Fields where IPFW soccer tournaments are held. Located across the river from the IPFW campus, the PLEX is a state of the art soccer facility consisting of a 45,000 square foot arena featuring two indoor soccer fields, one which converts to an in-line hockey rink."

Kanning is enjoying new challenges in academic areas and explained why he promotes the event on campus.

"We have lots of members who are former IPFW students, but only one or two existing students that I'm aware of. That's why I would like to see a better awareness on campus." He continued, "Many former college players in FWUC would like to see Ultimate introduced to IPFW as a club sport or at least an intramural sport. We have former college players from Lehigh University, Ball State, Purdue and Indiana University who are active in the FWUC."

If anybody is interested in Co-Ed Indoor Winter Ultimate, feel free to contact at 298@alumni.lehigh.edu or call the PLEX at 496-9999 extention 25 by Dec. 4th.

Photo by Sam Win / swin@ipfwcommunicator.org

FRISBEE: Ron Mihavics plays Ultimate Frisbee with his partner in the sunshine.

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Call: (260) 481-6807 to sign up

(all prices expires Dec. 7)

Trip sponsored by the IPFW Alumni Association and is open to the public.

▶ DIVERSITY
From Page A1

The Idol contest will be December 2, 2005.

"An event that we are hosting very soon is a Talent Show called IPFW Idol. We are looking for all sorts of talented individuals to demonstrate their talents and show others that everyone is uniquely created to serve a special purpose here on this earth as well to help others." Villalon said.

She continued to promote the contest, highlighting points of interest to IPFW students in what events will take place.

"There will be prizes, free food, great entertainment (for a small price) and judges who will pick the top three performers and then the audience will choose who actually receives 1st ($50 & trophy), 2nd ($35 & trophy), and 3rd ($20 & trophy). Everyone who participates will get a Certificate of Participation," she concluded.

The organization has also planned five series presentations focusing on, and named, "Bringing Down Stereotypes."

If any students want to learn more about the organization or event, feel free to contact via email to diversequality@yahoogroups.com.

In addition, all students can contact Villalon via email at kasandra_smith2002@yahoo.com or

IPFW only university in state to offer OLS Master's

IPFW News Services
Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne
www.ipfw.edu

Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne (IPFW) is the only public university in the state to offer a Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Supervision (OLS). The program will be open to students in spring 2006.

The new program offers students a foundation in the key principles of organizational leadership and the opportunity to choose a specialization in either leadership or human resource management. Organizational Leadership and Supervision programs focus on understanding and working with people within organizations and the practical application of leadership concepts and theories. Graduates will be prepared for leadership and human resources roles in a wide variety of organizations.

The MS in OLS is a 36-credit-hour program. Students will enhance their ability to understand the complexity and interrelated nature of organizational phenomena; see possibilities beyond the present state of the organization; develop and enhance organizational diversity; create positive organizational climates and cultures; develop employees, teams, and leaders at every level; and create a workforce that is a source of competitive advantage.

Students in the leadership option will learn to maximize skills and knowledge to influence and shape behavior, head project teams and functional areas, and lead change efforts. Students in the human resources option will learn to improve their skills to promote organizational diversity and quality, develop and manage compensation plans, develop and implement training and career development programs, and develop and maintain human resources policies and procedures.

For more information, call Linda Hite, director of graduate studies for OLS, at 260-481-6416.

Campus Calendar

IPFW

for Dec. 1–7, 2005

1 **Student Organization Leadership Development:** WU Ballroom, noon–1:30 p.m. For information, call 16283.

ACCS Workshop: "Break out of the Fort!" KT G46, 3–4:15 p.m. Sign up for workshops at www.ipfw.edu/accs.

National Student Exchange Information Session: KT G46, 3–4 p.m. For information, call 16595 or e-mail hofla@ipfw.edu.

Concert: Symphonic Wind Ensemble, NF Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. For information, call 16025.

2 **Athletic Event:** Women's Basketball vs. Kalamazoo College, 7 p.m. For information, call 16643.

Concert: Saxophone Quartet and Choir, NF Recital Hall, 7:30 p.m. For information, call 16714.

Theatre: *Bus Stop* by William Inge, WT, 8 p.m.; also Dec. 3, 8, 9, and 10 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. For tickets, call 16555 or TTD 260-481-4105.

3 **LSAT:** WU Ballroom, 8 a.m. For information, call 14153.

Athletic Event: Men's Basketball vs. Marygrove College, noon. For information, call 16643.

Theatre: *Bus Stop*, see Dec. 2 entry.

4 **Concert:** Department of Music Holiday Concert, Scottish Rite Center, 431 W. Berry St., 7:30 p.m. For information, call 16714.

5 **ISAT:** NF B76, 9 a.m. For information, call 14153.

Lecture: "Multiculturalism at Work: Understanding Diversity in the Malaysian Context," Professor Max Montesino, presenter; KT G46, 2 p.m. For information, call 16608.

Eating Disorder Support Group: WU 234, 6:30–8:30 p.m. For information, call 16647.

6 **Athletic Event:** Men's Basketball vs. Valparaiso, Memorial Coliseum, 7 p.m. For information, call 16643.

7 **Spanish Table:** WU Cafeteria, noon; bring a sack lunch. An opportunity to meet informally with the express purpose of speaking Spanish. For information, call 16689 or e-mail conformt@ipfw.edu.

Student Discussion Series (ASAP!): WU G21, noon. For information, call 16608.

Shakespeare Film Series: *King Lear* (1998), CM 159, 6 p.m. For information, call 16772.

IPFW Dinner Series: "Christmas at the Inn" at the Auburn Inn, 6:30 p.m., $20 per person. For tickets, contact Louise at 16562.

This od courtesy of the Office of the Chancellor

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The Communicator welcomes responses. Letters to the Editor must be signed, dated and accompanied by a current address, telephone number and class standing/major or title (if applicable). Letters not meeting these requirements will not be considered for publication.

All submissions made via e-mail will be verified by telephone or in person. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be published.

Submissions must be typed, and no more than 700 words.

The editorial board of The Communicator reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, grammar, style and clarity. Letters deemed potentially libelous by the editorial board will not be published under any circumstances.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Correction

THE COMMUNICATOR

Newswire

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Aggies open Texas' eyes

By Philip Orchard
Daily Texan
(University of Texas)*

(CSTV U-WIRE) COLLEGE STATION, Texas - Walking through the A&M campus before last Saturday's 40-29 Texas victory, there was an odd and unprecedented mix of resignation and submissiveness consistent among Aggie fans.

The "horns-down" hand signs were limited, several Aggies openly lamented about the season and still more seemed a little bit too willing to praise the Longhorns.

It was as if a great malaise had fallen upon Aggieland, all in expectation and preparation for what was state to be the most humiliating A&M defeat in the 112 years of the rivalry.

The stadium atmosphere was almost worse, capped when the anticipated finale to the Reggie McNeal/Vince Young rivalry that never really materialized, limped to an anticlimactic ending when Reggie McNeal hobbled in jeans through Senior Day introductions, officially passing the reins to the 3-and-out Gulf Coast offense to gutsy and talented Stephen McGee.

But four hours later in post-game interviews, the attitudes had switched.

Supposedly a pocket passer, McGee had sliced through the Texas defense for 108 yards on the ground. Supposedly the best player in college football, Vince Young had his worst game of the season.

The Aggies have something to talk about during the offseason (which, at 5-6, started Saturday afternoon). The Longhorns have several things to work on before taking on what could be the most talented backfield in college football history.

Texas had beaten their rival for the sixth consecutive time on the road in front of a raucous crowd, but didn't win by the 7B-point margin many had predicted, and the result was an odd mix of apprehension and relief. Struggling at Kyle Field was a good thing, right? Anyone? "It's not good to have it easy all the time," fullback Ahmard Hall said.

"I think it's the best thing that could possibly happen," Mack Brown said. "It got our guys' attention so we can quit talking about how good we are."

They're right. It was. Texas won by 11 without Vince being Vince. If that's Texas' worst game of the season, this year will be a smashing success.

Fact: After winning the previous eight games by an average of more than 37 points, Texas needed a close game.

Truth: Neither USC or Colorado will run the option, and Gene Chizik will make the necessary adjustments to fix the leak in the Texas run defense.

Bulldfaced lie: Vince Young is clearly the second-most-deserving Heisman candidate in college football.

While it's true that Friday's struggles only added fuel to the nation's Reggie Bush lovefest and in all likelihood secured Bush the trophy, the two should be neck and neck heading into next weekend.

It's only Young's second average game this season (in the other, Rice, Young was effectively out of the game before the third quarter ended). His only real mistake was the third-quarter fumble, and his interception was a blatant pass interference non-call.

Bush has had four games with fewer than 100 yards on the ground, three where he didn't score at all, and he simply doesn't carry his team the way Young carries Texas. His most recent signature performance came against Fresno State (who lost to Nevada on Saturday), featured seven kick returns for 185 yards (a pedestrian 19.3 yard average) and a crucial fourth quarter fumble which nearly lost the game.

"Looking at the numbers from what Reggie did last week and Vince did today, Reggie probably leads," he said. "But next week, Vince plays at noon, and Reggie at 3, so I think voters will wait and watch to see what happens."

Sheehan speaks at UC-Davis

By Lauren Becker
The California Aggie
(University of California-Davis)

(U-WIRE) DAVIS, Calif. - Holding signs that read, "Finish the war now ... so our kids don't have to in 20 years," a group of protestors stood outside Freeborn Hall at The University of California-Davis on Monday night before peace activist Cindy Sheehan took the stage.

Across from the protestors, several music performers sang peace songs such as "This Land is Your Land" while media cameras swarmed around them.

With both anti-war and pro-war groups present, tension filled the air before Sheehan spoke about bringing the troops home from Iraq.

After her son Casey's death in 2004, Sheehan camped out in front of President Bush's ranch demanding a private meeting with the president to ask him what noble cause her son died for.

Since then, she has toured the country spreading her message of peace in Iraq to bring the military troops back home as soon as possible.

Sheehan began speaking at 7:30 p.m. when moments earlier ski masks ran to the front of the stage holding a banner reading, "Al-Qaeda Approved." The unidentified men quickly ran out of the auditorium as audience members booed their actions and security guards chased after them.

A young man and woman also stood up against Sheehan holding a banner that read, "Thank you to Casey and all of our troops."

Despite the interruptions, Sheehan began her talk by discussing how the holiday season will be a sad time for many families in the United States and Iraq due to the loss of loved ones in the war.

She went on to share her opinion of the war in Iraq, saying the Bush administration has done a careless job of directing the military, using unethical approaches throughout the war.

The Bush administration, in Sheehan's opinion, has lied to Americans about the war. The administration has committed war crimes against the Iraqi people and hidden the number of dead soldiers and civilians, she said. She called Bush a terrorist for his actions against Iraq.

"Peace is a strength that we need to use," she said. "I'm not saying these problems are easy, but they won't be solved with our military presence."

Discussing her opposition to the military presence in Iraq, Sheehan said she does not support any American enlisting in the army under the current conditions.

The military is "holding our kids hostage" by making it difficult for soldiers to come back home once they have enlisted, she said.

"I love my country," she said. "I want my country to lead the nation peacefully. I don't want other countries to be afraid of us, and I know we have the capability of doing this without violence."

Sheehan closed her speech by saying every person whom the U.S. military kills only leads to the spawning of new enemies for America's children and grandchildren.

She said she hopes Bush will recognize this and pull the military troops out of a war that is a "mistake."

Her speech was met with continuous applause and several standing ovations.

Present were the event's sponsors, including the Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry, the Women's Resources and Research Center, Davis Peace Coalition, Code Pink: Women for Peace and the Davis Religious Community for Sanctuary.

UC-Davis graduate student Jeremiah Jenne, from the UUCM, explained why his group chose to support Sheehan with her mission.

"We support social activism," he said. "We hope we can get students talking about what's going on, whether they are anti-war or pro-war. We want all voices represented."

UC-Davis senior Alan Serrano, a political science major, showed support for Sheehan's message.

"I think it's great that Cindy is willing to speak out and ask the hard questions," he said. "I think she is getting students to look at what's going on in a different light."

On the opposing side, Ramona Hechtl, a 26-year-old Desert Storm veteran, spoke out against Sheehan's request to bring the troops home.

"I don't understand Cindy. She belittles the spirit and morale of our troops," she said, adding that Sheehan is a "puppet" who should feel disappointed about her actions.

Sheehan's book "Not One More Mother's Child" will be released this week in bookstores for those interested in learning more about her message.

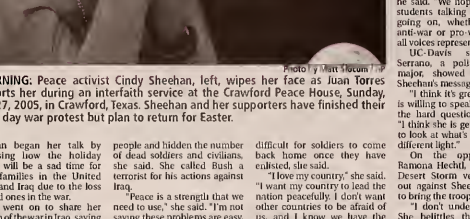

Photo by Matt Slocum / AP

MOURNING: Peace activist Cindy Sheehan, left, wipes her face as Juan Torres comforts her during an interfaith service at the Crawford Peace House, Sunday, Nov. 27, 2005, in Crawford, Texas. Sheehan and her supporters have finished their seven day war protest but plan to return for Easter.

Ball State University responds to racism

By Kelly McAnerney
Daily News
(Ball State U)

(U-WIRE) MUNCIE, Ind. - The Ball State University community is discussing ways to handle and prevent future discrimination after incidents of racial harassment were reported on campus.

The incidents came to light Wednesday at the Student Government Association meeting when Sen. Loren Ray expressed concerns about drive-by racial slurs being shouted at black students walking along McKinley Avenue.

Other students later shared their experiences of being yelled at or otherwise harassed. Freshman Smiley said she was glad people were talking about the incidents.

"It took two freshmen to stand up and open the doors and make everyone else comfortable to stand up and tell their encounters of racism," Smiley said.

Finding A Solution

The campus racial issues were discussed by students, faculty and administrators at the Brown Bag luncheon on Friday afternoon at the Multicultural Center. Much of the conversation focused on the word "nigger."

"The Brown Bag created an instant forum or 'town hall' setting through which people vented their frustrations on the use of the term, what should be done about ignorant racist acts on campus -- the drive-by racial slurs for example -- and how we can change prejudicial mind sets and if that is possible at all," Derick Virgil, Multicultural Center director, said. "It was a coincidental and planned educational moment."

One possible tool to aid the fight against racism is the formation of a task force to deal with the problems.

A meeting will be held Nov. 29 at 6 p.m. in the L.A. Pittenger Student Center, room 331. Director of Student Affairs Kay Bales said. Anyone is invited to join the task force for the meeting.

"Essentially, what we are doing is asking students to come and talk about what are some other things that can be done on campus," Bales said.

One idea already being implemented by the University Police Department is increasing the amount of police on duty, especially around McKinley Avenue where most of the verbal assaults have occurred. However, Director of Public Safety Gene Burton said it would take a "stroke of luck" for an officer to actually witness the harassment. Despite the difficulties, he said it was important the police assist however they can.

"Nobody should have to put up with that kind of harassment as they are walking down the street at midnight minding their own business," Burton said.

Educating The Community

Virgil emphasized education as a tool for preventing future problems. The Brown Bag Luncheon discussing the word "nigger" was one way of educating the campus community.

"Every now and then you need something like these sorts of discussions to open people's eyes and understand the perceptions of others and experiences of others," Virgil said, "and that most African Americans' experiences with that word are negative."

After hearing about the problems Thursday, political science professor John Rouse planned a lesson on the issues of race and socioeconomic status. He said he was not certain how well it would work in a small classroom setting and wanted to try to coordinate with other organizations on campus to create a larger discussion.

"To have whites discuss it is not going to do any good," Rouse said. "It has to be a dialogue between whites and blacks. The problem I have had in the past is black students feel so much on the spot that they are not willing to easily do that kind of thing."

Smiley said there was also discussion at the Brown Bag Luncheon about creating a core curriculum class on the roots of racial slurs and names.

Origins of problem

The identities of the motorists who yelled the racial slurs remain unknown. Bales said if they were Ball State students, they would be punished.

However, the perpetrators could be community members, and the acts of the individuals do not reflect the university attitude, she said.

"The climate of the campus would suggest this is really not indicative of our campus, and it is important we come together and try to identify who really are these people who committed these acts," Bales said.

As a substitute teacher in the Muncie, Ind., area, senior Jessica Rowand said she had noticed a problem with racial comments among her students but did not think that attitude was reflected at Ball State.

"It's not like everyone at Ball State is from Muncie," Rowand said. "Just because there is a problem in the community, it doesn't come down to campus."

Muncie Mayor Dan Canan did not return calls seeking for comment.

Senior Malcolm McIntyre said while the discussions taking place on campus were a good step forward, they were only dealing with racism issues on a small scale.

"The issue is deeper than Ball State and Muncie, it's American," McIntyre said. "This is good for symptoms, but not for the sickness."

Looking Ahead

The recent spotlight on the racial harassment received by Ball State students has raised questions about the atmosphere in the community. Ray said regardless of where the problems came from, they affect the whole area.

"Usually when people think of Ball State, they think of Muncie," he said. "It gives a black eye to the whole community. I know a couple people whose parents read this and are starting to have second thoughts."

Associate Dean of Student Affairs Alan Hargrave said he was surprised by the recent incidents and regrets their occurrence however, he is hopeful Ball State can use this as a learning experience. Anyone looking at the university should see it as a situation Ball State worked together to solve, he said.

"I'm optimistic it will really galvanize the university community to take a positive step toward dealing with the issues of hate," Hargrave said.

Ball State President Jo Ann Gora did not return cellular phone calls made asking for comment

IU of Pennsylvania nickname ruled "hostile and abusive"

By Courtney Linehan
Daily Illini
(University of Illinois)

(U-WIRE) CHAMPAIGN, Ill. - Indiana University of Pennsylvania will remain on the NCAA's list of schools with "hostile and abusive" American Indian imagery, the NCAA recently announced.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania claimed that its "Indians" nickname is derived from the university's location in Indiana, Pa. In its appeal, the school argued that because the nickname is a derivative of the town and county after which the school is located, it does not create a "hostile and abusive" environment.

Illinois made a similar argument to its appeal, which the NCAA denied on Nov. 11. While the NCAA staff review committee found that "Illini" and "Fighting Illini" are based on the word "Illinois" and are not offensive, the committee did not come to the same conclusion in Indiana University of Pennsylvania's case.

Instead, it applied reasoning very similar to that which was used in reference to Illinois' Chief Illiniwek tradition.

The committee said that while a tradition may not be carried out in mockery or with the intent to offend, schools cannot control how outside individuals or groups twist the imagery to make it abusive.

"While the university's rationale for the use of the nickname is not inherently hostile or abusive, and the university may not intend to malign Native Americans, the continued use of Native American references as nicknames creates an environment over which an institution may not have full control," the NCAA response to Indiana University of Pennsylvania stated.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania said its initial appeal was a "litmus test" of how the NCAA handled its appeals. Indiana University of Pennsylvania President Tony Atwater said school officials are still deciding what their next move will be.

In 1991, Indiana University of Pennsylvania dropped its American Indian mascot, which had been named "Cherokee." The university decided at that time to retain its "Indians" nickname.

"As president, I am particularly sensitive to the impact that the sanctions against Illinois are causing hosting of tournaments and lack of home field advantage poses for our student-athletes and our athletic program," Atwater said.

The NCAA policy, which goes into effect Feb. 1, bans schools with American Indian mascots, logos, or nicknames from hosting NCAA-sanctioned postseason competitions. It also prohibits those schools from displaying their American Indian imagery at any postseason event they participate in.

■ **HARRY FLOPPER**
New book-based movie not filled to the brim with magic.
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A&E

■ **THE ONLY CASH**
Joaquin Pheonix hits a high note as Johnny Cash in "Walk The Line."
PAGE A5

Wednesday, November 30, 2005
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Students dish on X-mas flicks

By Tiffany Dirig
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The other day I got to thinking. I'm sure, after a semester of me rambling on and on about what movies I like (and don't like), you're tired of it. I can't say that I blame you, either. That's why I decided to take my love of movies to the people. (How "let-them-eat-cake" of me, eh?)

My editors (I actually had little to do with the decision) thought it would be a good idea to do a survey of sorts to see what kinds of films you like. And, with the inpending holidays, we (they) thought "holiday movies" would be the perfect genre. We got what we bargained for!

I wrote and re-wrote the survey at least a half dozen times. At first, I was going to include a list of five films, namely the ones that I thought everyone loved. But therein laid my problem; I was thinking again. I really shouldn't do that, at least not for other people! Once I tossed that survey to the trash, I wrote one that was open-ended and allowed the survey-ees to think for themselves.

After I got them all back and tallied the totals, I had almost thirty holiday movies ranging from classics like 1946's "It's a Wonderful Life" to what some could consider the anti-holiday movie (and, incidentally, one of my favorites), "Bad Santa." Some of them I was expecting (e.g. "Elf"), while others caught me off guard (e.g. "Reindeer Games"). "The Nightmare Before Christmas" even made the cut (well, not the *final* cut, but people liked it). Ryan Greene, a pre-med freshman, said that "It has a dark side that most Christmas movies don't have." How can I argue with that? Even movies that I guessed would never be thought of made people's top five. Perfect example: "Jingle All the Way." Myself, not such a big fan, but Carly Ashcraft, a freshman majoring in business, loves it for one simple reason: "Arnold is amazing!" With devotion like that, it's sad the Governator's flick didn't make the final count.

Speaking of the almighty "counts," I shan't leave you thirsting for more. Without further adieu, here's the five favorites (out of 200 possible votes).

Every film in the top five I assumed would be there—save one. The film in the number five position threw me for a loop because, in all honesty, I completely forgot it existed. "Home Alone" (the first and only good one) barely made it. It beat out everyone's favorite "Elf" by just one vote and missed being number four by the same. The 1990 film about a boy (Macaulay Culkin) who unwittingly gets left behind by his gigantic and rowdy family on their trip to France for Christmas seems to be on many people's list. Of the people polled, it made a whopping six percent (remember, we're going out of 200 here) of lists. But, I suppose if I remember back to a time when Culkin was the most powerful child star in showbiz (sorry Olsens), I can recall enjoying that movie too. It didn't help that I was seven and had a ridiculous crush on Culkin. Now, when I watch the movie, I still laugh at the stupid escapades of less-than-perfect burglars Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern. Their goal was to rob every house in the ritzy suburb of Chicago, but they didn't really think it through. Or at least, they didn't think about the possibility that someone may still be in the house—someone named Kevin McCallister. And, as he so poetically puts it, "This is my house, I have to defend it." So that's what he does...not that it's too terribly difficult. Pesci's and Stern's characters aren't exactly the brightest crayons in the box, if you know what I mean. All the while, Kevin's parents finally realize (once they've made it to Paris of course) that they're one kid short. (Who can forget Catherine O'Hara, Kevin's mom, screaming "KEVIN!" at the top of her lungs then passing out...cinematic genius, if you ask me. PS: I'm being facetious.) After 103 minutes of pratfalls and peppy one-liners, Kevin beats the bad guys and is reunited with his family (sorry to ruin the end if you've never seen it). Makes for a cute "I-love-my-family-and-won't-take-them-for-granted-at-least-till-the-sequels-come-out" film.

Number four surprised me in that I presumed it would have been higher in the ranks. Too bad for Chevy Chase's "Christmas Vacation," it only ranked among 6.5 percent of voters (close call, I know). I was sure this one was going to be at least number two. Seriously, those crazy Griswolds are just too funny. The whole movie's about togetherness and wanting to kill your extended family and getting a pool with your holiday bonus. Smells like Christmas to me! And, I don't know about you, but when Aunt Bethany's packaged cat gets blown to bits, I crack up every time. (I think I should seek professional help when the death of helpless animals makes me laugh.) Really, though, I think "Christmas Vacation" is a classic. Not in the way "Miracle on 34th Street" is a classic, but in a late-20th-Century kind of classic. Joe Pasqueli, a communications sophomore, agrees. He goes on to say that "Chevy Chase is hilarious." How true that is. I make a point to watch it every year and I highly doubt that'll change anytime soon.

Eight percent of people thought that "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" was one of the best holiday flicks. We're not talking the Jim Carrey version, either. We're talking about the good ole 1966 original. The cartoon, not the one with people dressed up in freaky costumes with funky nose attachments. (I know it makes me a huge dork, but Carrey's version creeped me out!) No one has come close to personifying Dr. Seuss' Grinch like Boris Karloff. (Did you know that the highs in his voice were removed to give the character his signature gravelly sound? IMDB told me that!) The movie is about a Grinch who is determined to cancel Christmas, but once he has a chat with sweet little Cindy Lou Who (who was no more than two), he changes his mind...and heart. The story that teaches us that toys and gifts aren't the true meaning of Christmas has echoed in the hearts of children and adults for years. Beau Strack, a freshman majoring in public and media communications, says that, because he "grew up with it," it's his favorite. He loved it as a child and continues to love it to this day. Can't beat that with a stick—or candy cane. (Sorry, bad excuse for a really terrible joke.)

The number two holiday flick was Tim Allen's "The Santa Cluse." With nine percent of the votes, Allen's exploits as the new Santa Claus obviously made for a rocking good time. I mean,

▶ **CHRISTMAS:** *Page A5*

The art of the axe

By Caleb Kramer
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Upon my editor discovering that I have one of the same passions as himself, I was asked to write about it: the art and expression of playing one of the most popular instruments, the guitar. It's also known as "the axe," or down south the "geetar." It seems these days that three out of five human beings know how to play some sort of tune on the instrument.

I mean, the guitar is so common, there's a huge store down Coliseum that's titled in big words, GUITAR CENTER. Anyone with fifty bucks can go purchase him or herself an acoustic and start learning. I recommend you check the place out; it is definitely the heaven of musicians.

Anyway, I'll let you know that I DO NOT consider myself a veteran guitar player. Honestly, I used to despise music. You know, back in the middle school days where every one of us went through the tough decision to take band or choir? Well I got away with taking the much cooler class of guitar.

This opened me up to music and got me going on the guitar. But, once passing the required music class, I quit. Three years later, my friends and I decided to start a band; I was not very good at all, thus was pressured to catch up with the other members' talent.

At the time I was in boarding school and I just happened to room with a Korean guy who, to me, was amazing at guitar. Through the band and my roommate I quickly picked up some things about the instrument. Once over the hump of learning the basics I found myself picking up my guitar whenever bored, not feeling like doing my homework, or upset at the world.

I started exploring the guitar and music, trying things I heard my favorite bands play. Everything I know how to do on the guitar now is purely from imitation and observation.

I could now express myself. When not practicing the band's songs I was writing my own stuff. The songs I wrote slowly became more and more advanced, and sounded a lot better.

I went through a period of time where my songs sounded extremely, well, weird, because of my experimentation.

I believe the best way to learn an instrument such as the guitar is to experiment. Of course you can get tips from various places, but this way you will form your own style, and will have a huge plus of creativity. I have read quotes from famous musicians such as Nirvana saying the exact same thing. Just learning the scales and doing cover songs, although they can impress, will take away respect from both yourself and others. You are only playing other people's forms of expression.

Now I have reached the point where if I'm feeling an extreme emotion, I will sometimes sit down and try to write a song.

Let me tell you this, once the song is in its final form and if you happen to record it and listen to it later on, the emotion is captured forever by the music. It is a wonder in itself, having captured feelings forever. Every time you hear the song you will remember exactly what was happening and what was going through your head.

Sometimes, though, just like when writing with words, one can get writing block in writing music. It is possibly one of the most aggravating situations a musician can go through. Maturing musically comes in humps, after passing each tough patch you gain a level in the art of writing music.

For all of those who shred, I am sure you understand the pure glory that you feel while taking part in this act. Just allowing your fingers to flow, they somehow find the next note to play, when and where to bend the string, and the hammer-ons and pull-offs.

It gives you satisfaction both with the sound, and the fact that you have reached this level of guitar playing.

Not to mention you can impress your buddies, and the ladies.

But I have discovered that there are two different kinds of guitar playing: creative and technical. It is one thing to be able to arrange the riffs in a song to go together perfectly, and to be able to play some crazy lick.

The ones that make the charts are the ones that excel in both.

When it comes to mastering the technical aspect it can be extremely difficult as there are about a million styles of music out there. Blues, jazz, metal, punk, metalcore, they all come with their different style of playing.

Through all this rambling I hope that some of you readers will have connected at some level to what I've said, or perhaps are driving down to Guitar Center to pick up a "geetar." Don't forget to support the local, smaller guitar shops too!

Goodbye, Mr. Miyagi

By Tim Rodgers
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Beloved and respected, Pat Morita rose to acclaim and became the hero to millions of kids and adults as "Mr. Miyagi" in the Karate Kid franchise. He was known as a comedian more so than a dramatic actor, having been discovered by Redd Foxx, leading to the Asian-American character known as Ah Chew on Sanford And Sun. Sadly, he passed away of natural causes on November 24th, 2005.

Putting the karate on the wayside, Morita was better known as a comedian. He was known throughout the club circuit at the beginning of his career as "The Hip Nip." His notoriety gained, and he made his first on screen appearance in 1967's "Thoroughly Modern Millie." Quickly adapting to the screen, Morita's career continued. He gained more fame.

He scored a part with Don Knotts in "The Shakiest Gun In The West", while also having a reccurring role as the sardonic Captain Sam Pak in the long-running TV series, M*A*S*H.

Now, with the mini-bio aside, I want to delve into my own reflections of Pat Morita. I first came across him, as most people did, as Mr. Miyagi. The first time he graced the screen as the quiet, reserved ass-kicker, I took this guy into my movie heart.

For no greater line has been uttered when explaining life than "Wax on.... wax off." Aside from that, my parents will always know him as the sometimes-perplexed Arnold, the owner of "Arnold's" on Happy Days. His dry humor and quick wit made him the perfect comic relief in any movie he was in in. More so, teaching the brash Ralph Machio in Karate Kid 1-3. His knack for comic delivery made him great.

Sadly, we must say good-bye to this American treasure, creator of catch phrases that some kids nowadays have no idea to which they come from.

He may have passed, but his legacy will live on, in his movies, his comedy and especially in the hearts of those who will forever know him as Mr. Miyagi.

Iron and Wine delivers hits

By Caleb Kramer
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Indie has smuggled itself into the mainstream. The chill, laidback strumming of guitars and the straightforward vocals seem to appeal to the average human being. Anyone who has heard of Sam Beam's band Iron and Wine will know that it is definitely worth listening to. Just recently they released a new album, "In the Reins," which showcases the combined efforts of both Iron & Wine, and a band named Calexico. I have to admit I didn't have much expectation for this album, but upon hearing the first song was immediately surprised. Both bands have very different strengths creating a very good, very unique album.

The seven track CD leads off with "He Lays in the Reins," which honestly is possibly the best song. Featured is a unique combination of instruments, what sounds like some sort of tambourine and some exotic strings instrument. The vocals are soothing, and at one point almost sound like they come out of an opera. But even though this song seems to be the defining point of the album, the rest of the tracks are definitely worth listening on for.

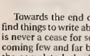
"Prison on Route 41" is definitely a lot more laidback, sounding like something one would listen to as he or she sits on a porch with a shotgun watching the sunset. Or in other words, it has more of a country feel. Although not as complex as the first track, it is another great song.

Throughout the album there are many unique instruments that I cannot begin to name. In "History of Lovers" you hear a horn section. How often do you hear a horn section in an indie band? Never, until now.

Overall, the album is a very nice mix of the country, indie and possibly lounge genres. "Red Dust" shows the lounge part of the album. Also showcased in random parts of the CD is a retro-sounding electric guitar.

A short album leads to a short review. All things said, just go out, purchase this album and listen to it. I was surprised listening to it and still am. These guys are musical geniuses, and even older generations can appreciate these tunes. Anyone who enjoys taking a break from today's fast paced world, laying back and listening to some good music, this is for you.

Happenings in the world of art



State Of The Arts

By Tim Rodgers
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Towards the end of the semester, it gets harder and harder to find things to write about. In the entertainment world, where there is never a cease for scandal amongst other things, even those are coming few and far between theses days. The hard part is mainly the complete lack of motivation that comes with knowing that finals and papers are on the horizon

But as I sit and reflect on everything that has happened in the entertainment world, I see nothing less than a flourish of fodder for people like me. It's a beautiful thing, reflection.

When I look back on the year, I see many things changed, Brittany got pregnant and married white trash. Michael was found not guilty, which proves you can always buy your way out of jail. Kylie Minogue survived breast cancer.

Mischa Barton's boob fell out of her dress. Russell Crowe beat a man with his phone. Matthew "Chandler" Perry went to rehab. Nick and Jessica had split rumors, again, and again, and again before finally calling it quits.

Oprah utilizes TV to stop sex offenders. Then every performer and their friends let off for New Orleans to aid Katrina victims and Mr. Sulu leaped out of the closet.

It never ceases to amaze me how much crap can happen in a year, let alone in a place where the news changes by the minute. Hollywood is the something of an abnormal monstrosity if you ask me. It's not exactly a place, as much as it seems like a state of mind. It's a state of mind that is in perpetual change, in constant fear of scrutiny from the outside world. Yes, indeed Hollywood should become its own country in my opinion.

Some might say I've fallen and bumped my head, but it seems rather logical. Technically it has its own governing body, the Screen Actors Guild, its own language, its own territories, citizens must have proper credentials to be in it. In all its imperialistic glory, Hollywood is another country.

Yes this seems rather radical, but in the most liberal state in the Union, nothing can be more fitting. Thousands of people every year flock to this place to hopefully grab their big break, some make it, at worst they bus tables, take out garbage while others come home with their tails between their legs to never cast the idea of stardom again. Such is life.

It's 8:27a.m. and at this point I am merely filling space, so I think you for continuing to read you're one of the brave ones. My rants and usually coffee or liquor induced and rarely make proper sense, but you know what they say? "When in Rome."

Yet as I reflect and bask in all that has happened, I do get a profound sense o joy knowing that in Hollywood there are lives that are, well, far more screwed up than my own.

It seems that every day someone has a new scandal, or eating disorder, or drug habit, or paternity suit or someone has just simply died for very stupid reasons.

It never ceases to amaze me, how many people I hear who want millions of dollars and fame. I say you can have it. I don't want cameras breathing down my neck. I don't want an agenda to decide my life, nor a plan to tell me when to shower in the morning. For all of you out there who want millions of dollars and fame, remember what the fortune cookie says, "Be careful what you wish for". Don't believe me? Turn on E! Sometime and watch for a couple hours. You'll get it.

Lastly, and finally before I ride off into the proverbial sunset next week. I will comment on one last thing that royally pisses me off about Hollywood. Laguna Beach.

Totally unrelated to anything I have talked about, I just want to comment about why people feel the need to watch premadonas stab eachother in the back and succeed admirably at it none the less? I am still trying to figure this one out. I have no qualms with reality TV is the show has a point, but this, wow, yeah.

There is a reason I stick to the news and the occasional episode of LOST. It is things like these that prompt me to think that Hollywood should be its own country, atleast then we could lead a crusade and obliterate yet another tiny nation from the spectrum.

"Walk The Line" walks over others

Film Review
By Tiffany Dirig
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Biopics. It's the hit or miss sub-genre of drama. They can be exceptional (e.g. "Schindler's List") or atrocious (e.g. "Monster"–please don't fight me, Charlize Theron was dreadful and we all know it). The newest to join the ranks of great biopics is "Walk the Line." I won't go so far as to say it was as good as "Schindler's List" (really, what is?), but it wasn't as bad as "Monster." With incredible performances by its stars (Joaquin Phoenix as the Man in Black and Reese Witherspoon as the love of his life), this film stands out as one of the best–at least for 2005.

A film about the legend that was–and 'is–Johnny Cash is no small feat. The man, full of mystery and intensity, is not just some "part" that an actor can waltz egotistically into. Phoenix had to take voice lessons (yes, that's really him singing) and had to learn how to play the guitar from scratch (imdb.com told me that). He (Phoenix) was recreating a man that has touched the lives of thousands in his nearly half-century in the music business (no pressure!).

Witherspoon didn't get off easily either. She, too, had to learn to sing (yep, that's her too) and play the auto-harp. Sadly for her, by the time they began filming, June Carter Cash had already passed on, leaving Witherspoon to her own devices to immortalize Carter Cash (she did a fantastic job, but I'll get to that in a minute). I read on a website (you guessed it, imdb.com again) that Witherspoon actually went through Carter Cash's closet to help get a feeling for her persona. Can't say as I've ever done that to prepare for a role, but whatever works.

As far as the plot goes, I couldn't even begin to tell you whether or not it was accurate. I only assume it was because Johnny, June and their son, John Carter Cash, helped create it. It begins with a young J. R. Cash growing up in Depression-era Arkansas. The second oldest boy, the music-obsessed youngster spent his days working with his family on their cotton farm and his evenings listening to little June Carter on the radio. After a horrific accident where his older brother was killed (a tragedy Cash never fully got over), he was forced to grow up fast. He enlisted in the Air Force and there wrote one of his most famous songs, "Folsom Prison Blues," after watching a movie called "Inside the Walls of Folsom Prison." Once he got out, Cash married Vivian Liberto (played very well by Ginnifer Goodwin–she was in "Mona Lisa Smile") and, before their divorce, had four daughters.

Cash starts meagerly as a door-to-door salesman. He soon grows confident and approaches a label. Obviously, the label was impressed, but not at first. They thought he was too nice, as he was singing primarily gospel. Cash showed them, however, that he knew how to sell his stuff. With his dark, gritty baritone and affinity for black, a star was born. Eventually, he began touring and, as fate would have it, met Carter Cash. They had a torrid love-affair, without ever cheating...almost. And, after his first divorce and her second were finalized, they married.

It was not all candy and valentines, however. Cash grew dependent on barbiturates and amphetamines. He even did time because of it. His lovely wife was the driving force that helped him become sober. And that's really where the film ends. We're informed that the two spent 35 years together and bore a son. Then we're told that in May of 2003 Carter Cash died, followed four months later by her husband.

The acting was superlative. I have always been a fan of Phoenix and Witherspoon, but now my appreciation has deepened. Ever since I saw the 1995 black comedy, "To Die For," I've had a thing for Phoenix (especially after I watched "Space Camp" the other day and noticed him–just a twelve-year-old kid back then. Shoot, he even went by a self-moniker, Leaf Phoenix... gotta respect that!). He, in every role, incites so much emotion. If he wants you to feel sorrow, he can make you. If joy is the desired effect, he can do it. It's something about his eyes; they just sear right through you. "Walk the Line" is no different. He expertly depicts Cash's struggle with drugs, divorce and loss. He makes Cash seem like a vulnerable boy and bad-ass all at the same time. My explanation does not even do his performance justice–not in the slightest.

Witherspoon is no different. It wouldn't be a lie to say she steals the show. She resurrects the soul of a kind, amazing woman with what seems to be little or no effort. For the first time since "Sweet Home Alabama," Witherspoon's native Southern accent could be freed. Granted, Carter Cash was from Virginia, which has a thicker twinge than Witherspoon's own Nashville drawl, but she nails it. I have always respected her as a performer thanks to 1991's coming-of-age drama "The Man on the Moon." But she hits this one out of the park.

The music was, in a word, phenomenal. After learning that the stars underwent six months of vocal training, I had to get the soundtrack to compare them to the real things. I was not let down, by any means. Phoenix captures Cash's signature sound and belts it out. Witherspoon does well to harness Carter Cash's wit, charm and playfulness. Save a few intonation differences, they are right on the mark.

I can't possibly see how this movie would get passed over come Oscar time. I know, I know... I said I don't say that often and here I am all but tripping over it. It was just such an unbelievable film. Well done...everyone that had *anything* to do with it, well done!

"Goblet" fails to deliver the magic

Film Review
By Tiffany Dirig
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As much as it does not pain me to admit, I have never seen–or read, for that matter–anything Harry Potter. Nor have I had the desire. Imagine my disappointment, then, when I realized that I would have to endure J.K Rowling's newest installment: "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

It should have been called "Harry Potter and His Band of We're-Not-Cute-Kids-Anymore-So-Now-Everyone-Will-Realize-We-Can't-Act Toadies." The whole thing was terrible. I can't understand how Harry Potter can be such an institution in this country when the script was horrible, the acting was horrendous, and the computer graphics just plain sucked. Of course, hundreds of crappy movies make millions everyday, why shouldn't Potter get a piece of the pie?

Some of you may assume that, as I was a "Harry Potter virgin," I would be completely lost. Well, news to the writers, I caught on just fine (which is incredibly sad). I, a newcomer, knew exactly what was going on 100% of the time. Not that it was a difficult plot to follow. Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe), his red-headed buddy Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint), and the "she-may-be-cuter-but-she's-still-illegal" Hermione Granger (Emma Watson), start out this clunker with a journey to the "Quidditch World Cup." The World Cup of what I ask you? I got that it was a big to-do, but I was so bored and trying so hard to follow the nauseating camera work that I missed what the heck they were going to see. All I heard was "blah, blah, blah, is it over yet?"

Anyway, I'm off the point. They go to this all-mighty World Cup and while there, they–well, Harry really–come face-to-face with the wicked "Death Eaters." (Dah, dah, dahhhh!) Amazingly Harry is spared and, save the crazy nightmares he's having, is fine. So, they go off to Hogwarts to start yet another year of wizardry and witchcraft. This year, however, is the Triwizard Tournament. Why do you care, you ask? Because, even though one has to be 17 to enter, magically (no pun intended–ok, there is) Harry, at the tender age of fourteen, is entered as well! Oh no! Everyone, even his goofy looking friend Ron, assume Harry entered himself. Ergo, he's ostracized by all. (Hey, I was a loser in high school; I know how that feels.) Long story short, Harry competes and, ohmygosh, wins! I totally didn't see that one coming. Because, honestly, I really didn't think he'd make it this time...no wait, he's making another movie–of course he'd make it. Naturally, in the midst of this, Lord Voldemort has to make an appearance. I'd be saddened if the creepy bad guy with the funny nose didn't show up. (Really, Ralph Fiennes, what were you thinking? Did you need the money that badly?) At the end, you're left with lots of unanswered questions. It'd be a good ploy to bring me back for the next one–if I gave a rat's patootie. Too bad I don't.

Now, children–and I mean the ones in the movie–it's time for two little words that will help your career by leaps and bounds (maybe): a-c-t-i-n-g c-o-a-c-h! This may be a new concept to the three of you even though you've been at this since you were young (you're still babies in my eyes), but coaches are there to help keep you from sounding like a whiny, younger version of Shannen Doherty (Emma Watson!) Seriously, by the end of the movie, I wanted to slap Watson senseless. All she did was pout, cry and shout. It got *very* old, *very* fast. And to Grint and Radcliffe...you're 14 (in the movie at least). You're becoming men. Stop being sniveling infants!

The graphics, oh goodness, the graphics. I don't even know what to say. It's not that I can't appreciate fanciful creatures, I can. I just can't appreciate poorly developed fanciful creatures. f can even get past the fact that every single critter was eerie as heck (by the way, I'll never look at a mermaid the same way). But other than that, the graphics were loathsome. Harry flying all over the place on his broomstick (could that be anymore cliché?) made my tummy do flips. Not good for Miss Tiffany...or anyone else for that matter.

The music was probably the least cruel aspect of the whole experience. It was well-orchestrated and nicely performed. I'm not going to rush right out and buy the soundtrack, but it wasn't all that dreadful. It wasn't good enough to make my $6.50 worth it, though.

All in all, I am thankful that I haven't been exposed to more Harry. Once is plenty in my book! Of course, as my father so lovingly pointed out, they're (the kids I mean) are laughing all the way to the bank; because even if I "poo-poo" it–someone's going to go, someone's going to pay for their livelihoods (and we all know they're living it up–I would be!).

CHRISTMAS
From Page A4

one fateful Christmas Eve, he kills Santa and has to take over. He makes the rounds that night, not fully believing what's happening. Afterward, he goes through the year turning into Santa—complete with the whiskers and irrepressible love of cookies. The only person that believes him is his once neglected son, Charlie. Push comes to shove and Allen's character accepts his new calling and has a newfound love and devotion to his young son. (Tear. How sweet.)

Now, the moment you've all been waiting for: the number one! Can you guess? Go on, I bet you can. That's right, it's little Ralphie! "A Christmas Story," commanding 10 percent of the votes, is the tale of a young boy in the 40s with an intense desire to own a Red Rider BB gun. He goes so far as to write a paper about it for school. How sad for him because he can't seem to get away from five haunting little words: "You'll shoot your eye out!" His mother says it, his teacher says it, and even Santa himself says it. Eventually, his desperation (and not-so-subtle hints) win out and there, like a shrine next to the tree on Christmas morning, is his gun. Stephanie Hoppes, a sophomore majoring in speech therapy, says that it's her favorite "because when I was little, my dad would have [it on] every TV in the house [during] the marathon. It reminds me of home." Well put. I couldn't agree more. To me, "A Christmas Story" is synonymous with Christmas. I have to watch it every year and if (gasp) I don't see it, I don't feel quite right about the season.

There you have it, the top five. I know the percentages seem small, but there were a lot of movies included. So many of them some only received one vote each. But at least now you have an idea as to what everyone else likes instead of my opinion week after week. That's got to count for something in and of itself, right?!

Millencolin posts results across the pond

■ Swedish band Millencolin lets loose on American punk scene with "Kingwood," bring uptempo music in from the country

By Caleb Kramer
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Foreigners sure do know how to make some spectacular sounds. No, not their crazy sounding languages, I'm talking about their music. One country that stands out is the country of Sweden, home to some of the top melodic metal bands.

Surely many bands envy the genius that flows through the Swedes' blood for music. Millencolin, a punk band out of Sweden, is proof that the country is not only good for metal. The band is not new to the United States though; they are far from unknown to anyone who attends the annual Warped Tour. Don't worry, they sing in perfect English, and they sure do it much better than par.

Millencolin's latest release, "Kingwood," I could dare say is by far one of their best, along with their last album that came out in 2000, "Pennybridge Pioneers." The packaging stands out among other CDs you would see on the rack. Not only is the design very well done, but also may I ask, "What is the deal with the guy having antlers?" I do not doubt that there is some sort of meaning backing this, but anyone who finds out, please drop me a line.

Punk rock has never been one of the more celebrated music genres. It is often described as a fast four-chord progression backed by angry, anti-establishment lyrics. Only a few punks have reached the high status of mainstream, bands such as Blink 182, Good Charlotte and Simple Plan, which although are technically punk, tend to start riots among the real punk population. It is safe to say that "Kingwood" grows wings and soars out of the stereotype of punk rock. They are strong musically, and are just a bunch of easygoing guys having fun - no extreme motives of bringing down the government.

Twelve tracks, and every single one of them are good. Original harmonious songs, with awesome dual rhythm electric guitars work together to make this album good. The vocals are truly recognizable and fresh, not some whiny kid who hasn't hit puberty either. The song structures seem to flow perfectly; these guys must've had either gone to music school or had WAY too much free time.

Their most prized track of the album is definitely "Shut Me Out," which leads into the song with an ear-pleasing picking pattern. This then continues as the rhythm guitar comes in, as does the rest of the band. Still after listening to this album since April, it awes me how the band uses seemingly simple guitar parts together in complicated ways to spawn the perfect sound.

Another top song is "Biftek Supernova." Although I'm sorry to say I do not know what it means, it continues to prove my point that the Swedish know their music theory. It has an extremely catchy tune and would be easily sung along to while speeding down the highway.

Although the songs all sound the different, they also sound alike, but in a good way. I'm not going to blame them for reusing their successful formula for writing rocking punk songs. Honestly, this is one of the only equations I DO enjoy. The lyrics aren't going to go out and upset the 5-0, but the outgoing, lets-have-fun attitude is still there. So anyone looking to listen to some good punk rock, check out "Kingwood" by Millencolin.

The Communicator

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Podium

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Global tragedies unite people against evil

UWire Column

By Jessica Napier
The Daily Princetonian

There are at least 56 people dead in Jordan because of three al-Qaida suicide bombers. As a result, hundreds -- even thousands -- of innocent people will be spared. Every negative action has the ability to produce a positive result, and sometimes it takes tragedy to unite people.

Jordan, a country that is considered one of the safest states in the unstable Middle East, was recently affected by the terrorism the rest of the world is experiencing.

On Nov. 9, three hotels were bombed in Jordan's capital, Amman. The hotels were "westernized," but the attacks were not specifically directed at Americans -- only three of the 56 people who died were American -- most of the victims were Muslim Arabs, according to www.abcnews.go.com.

One would-be suicide bomber -- a woman named Sajida Mubarak Atrous al-Rishawi -- failed her mission when her explosive belt failed to detonate. She and her husband tried to set off their explosives together at a wedding reception in the Radisson Hotel -- he succeeded, but she didn't and is now in Jordonian custody and has not explained a motive for the group's actions.

These bombers intended to kill helpless, oblivious civilians, some of whom were children. Unfortunately, they succeeded. Individuals who plot and carry out such events are cruel and heartless.

Whatever the justification for their actions, this event has roused fervent emotion from angry Jordanians. Responsibility for the attack was claimed by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian who was formerly viewed by his countrymen as a "holy warrior" doing justice by fighting U.S. troops in Iraq. After the hotel bombings, Jordan's sentiment toward that man changed quite a bit -- people took to the streets shouting, "Burn in hell, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi," according to The Associated Press.

Little does al-Zarqawi realize that he has done Jordan -- and the world -- a service.

Prior to this attack, many Jordanians supported suicide bombings against certain groups. This tragedy by al-Zarqawi has opened the eyes of many moderate and extremist Muslims in Jordan to realize that the same sting of pain they are currently experiencing is felt by people everywhere when their spouses and children are murdered.

There are still many Muslims in Jordan and throughout the world who believe that fighting for land rightfully owned by Muslims is a justified battle -- this includes killing U.S. soldiers in Iraq and Israeli troops in Palestinian territories, according to the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. In the aftermath of the Jordon hotel bombings, many such Muslims may finally realize the effects of such terrorism, and the fact that no one is safe from rampant hatred.

Tears and pain speak a universal language -- they know no boundaries.

This makes them powerful enough to save instead of take lives and establish friendships in places where enemies once stood.

Tears will forever keep the balance tipped toward good.

Confederate flag a symbol of treason

UWire Column

By Andrew Bare
Independent Florida Alligator

History can be a remarkable friend if you deal with it carefully and respectfully. We must always be sure to understand the lessons of the past, as the consequences of ignorance are all too clear.

But history presents us with another danger.

It is one thing to embrace the past; it is another to hold it with such verve that you are incapable of letting go, of viewing it with a dispassionate perspective.

And so we have a few fans at Louisiana State University football games flying purple-and-gold versions of the Confederate battle flag, prompting outraged protests by black students.

And so we have a 28-foot statue of a Confederate soldier in Gainesville, Ga., standing on a marble pedestal adorned with a Confederate flag.

And so we have citizens of another Georgia town, Trenton, voting to re-erect a city flag featuring the Confederate emblem.

If it seems the issue is tired and tiresome, that's because it is. And if it seems it's time to move on from the Civil War, that's because we should. But as long as the flags of the Confederacy still fly over American soil, there's a debate to be had.

The above stories all present different challenges, legally and ethically, but they all are tied together by the basic theme of historical misinterpretation.

Southerners in support of flying the Confederate flag have argued that the Civil War is a crucial aspect of Southern heritage and to fly the flag is to honor that heritage.

It's an argument that has a certain allure, largely because it's completely true.

The story of the South, the story of the entire country, cannot be told without discussing the Civil War. Where we go wrong is in the belief that the presence of an event in our historical narrative makes it worth honoring.

All events are worthy of discussion. Few earn hallowed status.

And at some point, the South must come to understand that the Confederacy is not something to be honored.

We can debate endlessly, if somewhat one-sidedly, the explosive racial implications of the Confederate flag. But setting those aside, we're still faced with the indisputable facts of the situation.

The Confederate flag represented a group of men and women who committed treason. It represents a group of rebels who, if successful, would have torn apart the United States.

These are the salient facts.

Everything else is on the periphery. The embarrassment of the status quo is that there are American communities that consider it not only appropriate but right to honor traitors.

That Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson and Jefferson Davis had greater bearing and wealth than the men normally associated with words like "treason" is entirely irrelevant.

That many Confederates fought with extraordinary skill and courage is also irrelevant; brilliance in the pursuit of evil ends is no virtue.

There was nothing good or decent about the South's rebellion. There was nothing noble about the treason of Lee or Jackson. Lee had his chance to serve his country or serve his state.

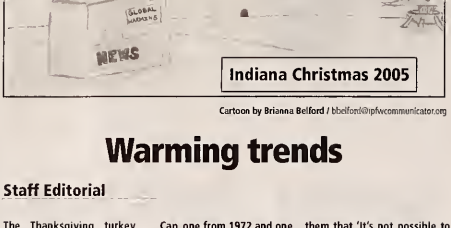
He chose his state. An understandable choice. But nations have fallen as a result of understandable choices.

And there is no reason for Americans to honor men who made the understandable choice over the right one.

Have something to say?
Anything you just have to respond to?
The editorial board of The Communicator wants to hear from you.

letters@ipfwcommunicator.org

Letters to the Editor should be no more than 700 words long. Submit your thoughts directly to The Communicator, Suite 215 of the Walb Student Union, or email them to letters@ipfwcommunicator.org. Include your name, phone number, and your email address (optional). This information is needed solely for verification purposes; only your name, major, and class standing (if applicable) will be printed in the paper.



Indiana Christmas 2005

Cartoon by Brianna Belford / bbelford@ipfwcommunicator.org

Warming trends

Staff Editorial

The Thanksgiving turkey was eaten and the Christmas shopping started. On campus students were welcomed back from their short break with a myriad of lights adorning the bushes and evergreen trees.

To the casual observer looking out from a car window the city seems to be on a fast track to winter.

The radio then announces the weather report; mid-60s with severe thunderstorms.

Global warming, in all of its glorious controversy, is knocking on the door with a mighty blow.

This past September NASA announced that there was proof that global warming is currently in progress. They showed two satellite images of the Polar Ice Cap, one from 1972 and one from 2004. A "total area twice the size of Texas had turned to water," reported the *Rolling Stones*.

Besides the warmer than average shopping weather some look back to November 6 when a tornados ripped through Southern Indiana and Kentucky killing two dozen people in the middle of the night.

According to Greg Forbes, a sever weather expert for the Weather Channel told USA Today that November tornadoes are not unusual.

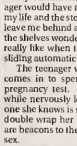
But what was unusual was the lack of power the cold fronts in November had to kicks tart winter and drive the warmer fronts south.

He went on to kill the global warming speculation by telling them that "It's not possible to blame a specific, late-season tornado outbreak on global warming, he says. But the fact that it 'took three fronts to clear out the warm air makes him "a bit suspicious" that climate change may be playing a role, he says.'

Some like the lack of carrying around a winter coat while shopping and traveling while others have been praying for snow since they put away their shorts, but either way one cannot overlook the vast changes in our atmosphere and our weather patterns.

Global warming is an issue that is being debated in our local, state and federal government offices. It should be an issue that concerns you.

Judgement in the line



In Other Words

By Brianna Belford
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Everyone is defined by something. What they look like, their level of schooling, where they go to bed, what type of car they drive, or even what they watch on television. Working at the register of the local drugstore I've come to realize that I'm judging my neighbors by what they purchase.

My customers, or guests as my manager would have me call them, come into my life and the store for a few minutes but leave me behind a register or out stocking the shelves wondering what their lives are really like when they pass through those sliding automatic doors.

The teenager who just got her license comes in to spend her allowance on a pregnancy test. She's counting change while nervously looking around to see if perhaps someone she knows is spying on her. I understand her fear and double wrap her purchase. The flimsy see-through bags are beacons to the outside world that she's had premarital sex.

Then there is the college student who buys note cards, a four pack energy drinks, and a box of condoms. I think the ironic twist to this all is when, at the last moment he spies a cheap 99 cent toy from the Christmas aisles. He picks up the collapsible figurine and tosses it in his treasure pile to be purchased. The line between adolescence and adulthood is by far wider than he knows.

Everyone is defined by something. It's a fact of life that we're all going to make judgments about one another.

Towards the end of my shift the restaurants around town are shutting down. This would be about the time the single mom gets off from waitressing job and comes in to buy another bag of pull-ups. She has a coupon just like she did last week. As I give back her change she smiles and says that she'll see me in the morning. She works first shift too and doesn't have enough change for milk. She'll be by in the morning before the kid's head off to school- can't send them away without breakfast.

I admire the sick teacher who comes in to buy cold medicine and stickers- her students would never understand if she ran out of gold stars.

I am judging each person who comes through my line. Sometimes, as the scanner beeps away I wonder what they'd think if they knew that I've purchased nearly all of the above at some point in my life.... And if they only knew that so has every one else we'd all be less prone to judging our neighbors.

It's a fact of life that we're all going to make judgements about one another.

I just hope, and urge, everyone to step back and realize that we've all done crazy things, said hurtful and spiteful sentences, and made judgements before we learned the truth- so step back and stop judging.

Editorial Policy

Editorials are the opinions of The Communicator. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of IPFW, its employees or its student body. A column is solely the opinion of its author.

The Communicator welcomes responses. Letters to the Editor must be signed, dated and accompanied by a current address, telephone number and class standing/major or title (if applicable). Letters not meeting these requirements will not be considered for publication. All submissions made via email will be verified by telephone or in person. Addresses and telephone numbers will not be published.

Submissions must be typed, and no more than 700 words. The editorial board of The Communicator reserved the right to edit all submissions for length, grammar, style, and clarity. Letters deemed potentially libelous by the editorial board will not be published under any circumstances.

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Smoke 'em if you got 'em

Simply Ludicrous
By Courtney Eyer
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Publishing company HarperCollins is rewriting history. A photo featured on the back of the classic children's tale "Goodnight Moon" has been digitally altered to be more (as HarperCollins sees it) child-friendly.

In the photo, which has been printed in editions of the story for almost 60 years, Clement Hurd, the illustrator of the story and recreational nicotine user, was smoking a cigarette at the moment of photographic exposure.

In a New York Times article by Edward Wyatt, the editor in chief of the HarperCollins children's book division, Kate Jackson, claimed the cigarette sends a "potentially harmful message to very young kids."

Thanks for raising the nation's children Ms. Jackson; everyone knows we can't do it on our own.

A website, appropriately named goodnightreality.com, has even been established in an attempt to replace the cigarette Hurd clutches in the photo.

Can it be true that a single image of Clement Hurd is all that exists? If true, I find the actions of HarperCollins even more shameful. This publishing company has taken it upon themselves to alter the legacy of this man

Digital destruction of history is appalling and dangerous. Why don't we just eliminate every photo ever taken of Adolph Hitler? That would mean the Holocaust didn't happen right? That would mean Hitler wasn't a prick, would it not?

This photographic faux pas is not an isolated incident. Just as despicable was the way Steven Spielberg digitally altered the DVD release of E.T. a few years ago, replacing guns with walkie-talkies in the hands of FBI agents hell-bent on eliminating both Eliot and his red-bellied visitor.

While not as contemptible as the actions of HarperCollins, Spielberg's decision is still unsettling. The culture of the 1980s was more accepting of firearms and the film reflected this accordingly.

What benefit is wrought from this refashioning of culture to fit the present norms? It seems as though the lessons we can learn from our prior missteps are much more beneficial than pretending as though they did not occur. If we turn our backs on our mistakes, we are only forced to replicate them.

As goodnightreality.com points out, this is an alteration of reality...of truth, all perpetrated by a single publishing company.

The notion that children are focused more on the picture of a book's illustrator over the book itself is frightening. The notion that an image of an FBI agent with a gun is unacceptable is absurd.

But, by far, most ludicrous is the notion that children (and adults as well) are now being raised by contrived representations of our culture that a select few deem appropriate.

Steven Spielberg and HarperCollins are exhaling a new system of American values and American ideals.

And we inhale this system like gasoline...dizzying ourselves with the incessant attempts at compliance, falling unconscious with our acceptance of "normal," only to awaken with a head that aches from a misunderstood new reality and lungs so empty we can only inhale again.

Bush deserves recognition for compassion

UWire Column
By Aaron Brown
Daily Bruin (UCLA)

The libertarian/capitalist wing of the Republican Party has been furious with President Bush and his policies.

Pat Buchanan wrote an anti-Bush book, and in a Los Angeles Times article, former Reagan staff members and advisers denigrated his policies in favor of aiding the impoverished overhalanced budgets.

They hated when he signed a bill that added prescription drug coverage to Medicare, a huge boost to people who can't afford high prescription drug prices.

It also, however, added further burden on the budget.

Fiscal conservatives cannot stand this president and the towering budget deficits that have evolved over his presidency.

A significant proportion of the deficit can be attributed to war. However, the president's compassion is a major factor as well.

In his 2006 hudget, Bush allotted $368 billion to the poor in different forms of entitlements; a record, according to Bill O'Reilly.

President Clinton, at the same point in his presidency, allotted $191 billion (half of what Bush administered).

It seems conservatives don't like Bush because he helps the poor and minorities and yet liberals don't like him because he doesn't care about the poor and minorities. Confused?

In May of 2003, comprehensive tax cuts were enacted in Congress, a factor in budget deficits.

Since then, however, the country has gained about 4 million jobs, many of them in lower-income communities.

Furthermore, the president restructured the federal income tax brackets so several million of the nation's lowest wage workers no longer had to pay taxes. That is real money in real people's pockets.

The president, the first one in history to hold an MBA, runs the country like a business.

He surveys the size of the country's wealth and assets and realizes a deficit is not a major detriment.

Rather, the president's deficits are an investment in the American people, and already they are paying dividends. A few months ago it was announced that projected deficits had been reduced by about $100 billion thanks to increased revenue provided by the jobs the president had created.

By the end of the president's term, as spending in Iraq declines and the economy continues to grow, we will further witness dividends on the president's investments and further budget deficit reductions.

The president, while receiving no credit, has achieved further dividends as well.

For instance, the majority of minorities own homes. This comes as a direct result of many of the polices put in place by the president, including a $200 million-a-year act to help lower-income families with down payments.

The president also created a Compassion Capital Fund, in which millions of dollars have been given to charities to aid the poor.

No president has ever funded charities in the magnitude of this president.

Last year, he put $45 million into the fund for mentoring at-risk children in low-income areas.

It's also important to note that the poverty rate right now is 12.7 percent.

At this point in Clinton's presidency, the poverty rate was a full percentage point higher at 13.7 percent. What's interesting, though, is that the president's poverty rate has increased the last few years because non-Hispanic whites have gotten poorer.

Hispanics and African Americans, the people the president supposedly cares nothing about, have increased their incomes at the national level.

It is important to remember the inspiration for these policies. It is the often-despised Christian faith of the president that drives "compassionate conservatism."

Indeed, the president is the most sincerely devout Christian president since Jimmy Carter.

I hope President Bush will be remembered for what he has done, budget deficits and all.

Al Qaeda bombings and the history books

UWire Column
By David Conard
Northern Star

In its recent Jordan hotel bombings, al Qaeda managed to fatally injure a movie director who made a movie glorifying a 1920s Islamic teacher and Libyan guerrilla leader.

Moustapha Akkad, a 75-year-old Syrian-born filmmaker, is better known for producing the "Halloween" horror films. But in 1981 Akkad produced and directed "Lion of the Desert," starring Anthony Quinn and Oliver Reed.

Quinn plays Sidi Omar al-Mukhtar, a 1920s Libyan resistance leader who fights against Italian occupation forces. He is led by Gen. Rodolfo Graziani, played by Reed.

What a frightful and idiotic thing for al Qaeda to do. They blow up a guy who made a film glorifying a Muslim leader resisting Western occupation.

Just a few quotes from the movie should give all of us, especially al Qaeda, something to think about. Maybe they'll stop to consider who they might kill next time.

In "Lion of the Desert," after wiping out an Italian army convoy in the desert, several of Quinn's fighters aim their rifles to kill some italian prisoners, including a young lieutenant.

"We do not kill prisoners!" Quinn shouts.

"They do it to us!" A guerilla responds.

"They are not our teachers," Quinn replies, and noticing the officer's age, says "He's a boy."

As I recall, al Qaeda has killed many prisoners. That's one reason why no heroic movie should ever be made about them.

Later, when Reed's character decides to put Quinn's people in concentration camps, Quinn wonders, "Who can fight such a war? Not against armies, but against innocent people."

History should not be like a fashion photo shoot, where the photo department can touch up the model's blemishes. Leave the picture alone.

Apparently, al Qaeda never got that message either. The group continues to massacre civilians in Iraq, often more than 100 in one week. Even Akkad's portrayal of Al-Mukhtar as a hero didn't give him reprieve from al Qaeda's merciless depravity. Nor did it give his daughter reprieve.

She was killed in the blast, too.

I think the scariest quote in the movie belongs to Reed's character. An Italian royal family member visits his headquarters and asks Reed if he's bothered by how history may portray him.

"Oh, don't worry your royal head about that," Reed replies, "We'll write the history."

In the end, who writes history?

Oxford professor E.E. Evans-Pritchard, who wrote about the Italian occupation in his book "Vsanusi of Cyrenaica," shows another side to the guerillas.

He states in the book, "...if they [compliant Libyans] did not supply the Patriots with victuals or if they refused to pay taxes in support of the resistance, they were subjected to punitive measures."

One can't necessarily trust any historical narrative, either. According to the Internet Movie Database, "This film, a box-office failure, was bankrolled by Libya's Colonel Muammar Qadhafi."

Qadhafi has been Libya's dictator since 1969, and, according to BBC, "has been accused of sponsoring International terrorism, which led to American air-raids on Tripoli."

On the other side, according to the Internet Movie Database, "This film is banned in italy. Owning and showing it is a criminal offense, on the ground of 'defamation of the armed forces.'"

Who do you want to believe? Qadhafi or Italy, which banned the film as an opposing argument?

In the end, I would like history to be based on facts, not propaganda.

it should not make heroes of murderers.

I don't want to see a made-for-TV-movie called "Osama bin Laden: Hero of the People." I also don't want to go to the theater to see "The Humane Vice President" with Kelsey Grammar playing Vice President Dick Cheney.

Not when CNN reported on Nov. 21 that Cheney has lobbied against anti-torture legislation in Congress.

History should not be like a fashion photo shoot, where the photo department can touch up the model's blemishes.

Leave the picture alone.

It might be the only way to shame al Qaeda -- and others -- into behaving decently.

Democrats remain stuck, GOP criticizes their critics

UWire Column
By Alex Duncan
Oklahoma Daily

President Bush called critics of the Iraq war "irresponsible" and said the criticism sent the wrong message to the enemy and the troops last week.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld echoed these charges in the administration's coordinated effort to boost public support for the war and the president's slumping approval ratings.

The growing row over Iraq has eclipsed all other issues on Capitol Hill, where partisanship and acrimony have reached new heights.

House Republicans forced a vote on a resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq on Friday after Rep. John P. Murtha (D-Pa.), a well-known hawk, said the troops should come home.

While easily defeated, the political stunt did succeed in creating a bitter floor debate where a GOP newcomer suggested Murtha, a 37-year Marine veteran, was a coward.

The controversy stems from accusations that the administration manipulated pre-war intelligence and misled the American people into war, charges that the White House desperately wants to refute.

For Democrats, the public's steadily increasing war weariness should be a golden opportunity. President Bush's approval ratings are at 37 percent, an all-time low for his presidency.

But the opposition party suffers from a crippling credibility problem.

Most Democrats voted for the resolution that gave the president the power to go to war, opting to garner some short-term political gain in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

That decision now complicates their ability to capitalize on waning support for the war in Iraq. And that's why Democrats are struggling to find a coherent position on the war, one that can tap into its growing unpopularity.

The Democrats are caught in a political conundrum. They are complicjt in the president's faulty judgment. In good conscience, they can't now separate themselves from his hasty march to war. Take the charge that the president twisted pre-war intelligence, for example. The Democrats had access to that intelligence. When they voted for the war, they expressed their confidence in that intelligence. Now saying the intelligence was faulty smacks of revisionist history.

If the intelligence was manipulated, then they were tricked. So are the Democrats feeble-minded or just lazy? It's quite the political pickle.

The victims in all this mess are the American people. There is no competitive party to represent our views because there is no trueanti-war party. No party in Washington ever said, "This war is a mistake, even if Saddam has WMDs." That's a shame.

Because of the Democrats' complicity, their only effective argument is that the troops should come home soon, without further delay. That's a good argument because it lets people who initially supported the war join ranks with those who opposed it all along.

But it will be hard for people to rally behind the Democrats, given their two-faced position on the war and the credibility gap.

or disaffected Republicans, joining ranks with the Democrats is hardly an option. For those staunchly anti-war, it is equally difficult.

Unfortunately, there are so few options available in our two-party system, where the "options" are bitterly divided by rhetoric and partisanship, but eerily similar on matters of substance.

Trickery at city hall, typical politics at the local level

UWire Column
Staff column
Michigan Daily

(U-WIRE) ANN ARBOR, Mich. - It looks like incoming City Council member Stephen Rapundalo (D-Ward 2) will not have a seat on the new committee between City Council and the Michigan Student Assembly -- even though the committee was his idea.

Instead, the committee's two seats for councilmembers are likely to go to Leigh Greden (D-Ward 3) and Wendy Woods (D-Ward 5), neither of whom is known as an advocate of student issues. The action has created a state of disrutpion within Ann Arbor's City Council.

While Rapundalo can and should still represent student concerns, Greden and Woods in particular need to be receptive to students in their role on the committee with MSA.

After defeating LSA senior Eugene Kang in the Democratic primary for the Second Ward seat in August, Rapundalo ran in part on a platform of staying connected with students.

Given that it was his suggestion to form a committee between City Council and MSA, Rapundalo appeared a shoe-in for a seat on the committee after his election.

For now though, the committee seats are expected to go to more experienced councilmembers. Mayor John Hieftje told the Daily that Rapundalo "will have his hands full being brand new on Council." While Rapundalo has extensive experience in community organizations, Hieftje's statement is probably accurate. It is difficult to criticize the decision to place experienced incumbents on the committee.

That said, Woods's decision to step up to the committee was surprising. Her work as the associate director of the Michigan Community Scholars Program has presumably made her aware of concerns facing University students.

However, her uncontested campaign for re-election ftom Ward 5 -- which contains no University residence halls -- did not place much emphasis on student issues.

Though Greden displayed more interest in students' lives during the campaign, historically his attitude toward students has verged on hostility. Most notably, Greden proposed a ban on porch couches during the summer of 2004, when most students were out of town.

It remains to be seen whether Greden's newfound interest in students reflects a change in his attitude toward them.

By serving on the MSA-City Council committee, Greden and Woods have the opportunity to become better informed about the issues facing students, who form roughly a third of Ann Arbor's population. And appointments to the committee are not permanent; Rapundalo may serve on it later, once he has settled into his Council seat.

A numher of issues will face the committee in the coming weeks, from the proposed lease-date ordinance to a possible return of efforts to pass a couch ban.

From the beginning, both the councilmembers and the students on the committee will need to take their jobs seriously. It is also vital that City Council as a whole listens to what the student relations committee has to say.

The committee must be a way for students' voices to be heard -- not a means for an indifferent Council to placate and ignore their concerns

Guard plays tall for five-foot-six

By Megan Yoder
myoder@ipfwcommunicator.org

With a height "pushing 5-foot-6," IPFW sophomore Johnna Lewis-Carlisle is not the biggest player in Division I basketball, but that did not stop her from being the quickest and most point-producing player for the Mastodons in her freshmen year.

From Lexington, KY, Lewis-Carlisle was recruited as early as her sophomore year in high school to play for the Mastodons. A talented high school player, she participated in the Ohio-Kentucky All-Star game and led her own team in free throw percentage.

"We were very fortunate to get her," assistant coach Chris Paul said. "We looked as early as her sophomore year, and began really taking an interest in her during her junior year. She had many other big schools like Louisville looking at her. We were very glad when she decided to join our program."

As a freshman, Lewis-Carlisle posted a scoring average of 9.6 points per game and racked up 36 assists for IPFW, good enough to be named the Independent Newcomer of the Year. Known for her quickness and ability to manufacture her own shot, her size did not play very much of an issue, even early on.

"She has quickness in her release that makes her very effective," Paul said. "When you are small your whole life, you understand what you have to do. Even against guards as big as five-foot-eleven and six foot, she is hard to handle because of her speed."

As a player, not only is she speedy, but also very intense and passionate. Expected to improve upon her freshmen season, the coaches look to Lewis-Carlisle in a more consistent role as a sophomore.

"There were times when her emotions got the better of her last year," Paul said. "When she controls her emotions and allows herself to come out and play, she is outstanding to watch."

The coaching staff has seen much improvement in terms of consistency and reliability from Lewis-Carlisle from a year ago. However, going 10 for 21 against Marian College, and then 4 for 13 against Bowling Green State shows a need for more consistency.

"We expect more consistency; she led the team in scoring last year," Paul said. "Last year, she would go one game with 25 and then the next game only two. I think a lot of that had to do with being a freshman away from home."

As a result of last season, Lewis-Carlisle spent much of the summer in Fort Wayne, practicing and improving her game both mentally and physically.

"She's got a whole year under her belt now," Paul said. "She stayed here most of the summer working out. Now, we have a more consistent Johnna with less mental lapses. I believe this year we will be able to count on her in all 28 games."

Not only is the coaching staff looking for a more consistent Lewis-Carlisle, they will also look for her to play a bigger role in manufacturing points and leading the team.

"I think she has got to be a leader this year," Paul said. "The team looks to her as a leader because of her ability to score. What we and the rest of the team will look for from her is consistency."

It's lot to handle as only a sophomore, but with all the confidence of her coaching staff and fellow teammates behind her, Lewis-Carlisle and the rest of the program look forward to a tough schedule.

"We are just letting the girls face one opponent at a time," Paul said. "It is an old saying, you know, not looking ahead, but it works. Of course, the coaches have discussed Kalamazoo, but for the girls we just focus them on what they need at that moment."

What the entire team needs at every moment this season is a consistent leader in Lewis-Carlisle, but after so much work, and early success, the possibilities for the sophomore guard this season are many.

"As a guard and a returning starter, players are going to look to her when offense is going slow," Paul said. "When we need a big shot, the team will be looking to her."

Photo by Amie Sarka / asarka@ipfwcommunicator.org

SHOOTER: Johnna Lewis-Carlisle practices her free throws. She averaged 9.6 ppg last season.

Baseball signs six Hoosier recruits for this year

By Justin Kenny
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The IPFW baseball team's recent success on the field is now beginning to effect the team off the field, as coach Billy Gernon has announced he has signed six recruits in the early recruiting period for next season. Gernon claims that this is "the best early period signings we have ever had."

The six players, who will be seniors this season in high school and will join the Mastodons in the fall of 2006, is Gernon's start to replacing the 11 seniors he will lose after this season. IPFW is a combined 44-56 the past few seasons, including 24-25 a year ago.

"We are really excited about this class," Gernon said. "We haven't had much luck signing guys early, but we had more success this fall."

The signings include four pitchers, a position that IPFW would like to improve on in the next few seasons. The prize of the class is A.J. Risedorph out of Kendallville, IN. The right-hander spurned Purdue University to play for the Mastodons.

"I think we struck a chord with him," Gernon said. "I told him we are extremely flattered to compete with Purdue for him. He liked the fact that he is going to come in here and be an impact guy for us from day one."

Apart from Risedorph, pitchers Matt Antos from LaPorte, IN, Bryant Cook from Selma, IN and Matt Ransbottom from Warsaw, IN have also signed letters-of-intent. Last season, the Mastodons ranked 27th in the country in hitting and ninth in the country in stolen bases, but what prevented a better season for IPFW was its lack of pitching depth. Gernon has worked to rectify that dilemma by recruiting solid pitching.

"I think at our level, pitching needs to be a big focus," Gernon said. "A good pitching performance can win you games. It's not like basketball where even though a guard is a great player he can't win games by himself. In baseball, a dominant pitcher can be all you need to win games."

Third baseman Jim Gilliland from LaPorte and infielder Tyler Ragland from Indianapolis are the other recruits so far signed by IPFW. Ragland is known for his speed on the base paths, a facet of the game that Gernon will continue to focus on.

"We are going to live and die by running," Gernon said. "We can match up with teams such as Michigan and Tennessee (both 2006 opponents) by moving our runners running them silly." One of the reasons why the Mastodons were so successful in scoring runs a year ago was their speed. Gernon explains that opposing pitchers would throw a lot of fastballs in order to get the ball to the plate faster, due to the threat of IPFW runners stealing. Fastballs are a hitter's best friend, enabling the Mastodons to pile up hits and runs. "I'm having to continue to recruit fast guys, based on our performance last season," Gernon said. "Raglin and others we bring in will allow us to continue to move in the direction we need to go in."

With all six recruits hailing from the Hoosier State, it can be seen that the coaching staff has made it a priority to scour the state for talent. For a regional school, before you venture out of the area to attempt to grab players, you look first in your own backyard.

"We hammer the state of Indiana," Gernon said. "We focus on regional recruiting, but we fall against big competition, such as Indiana, Purdue, Butler, Evansville. We lock horns with all those guys."

With the limited amount of scholarships at hand, Gernon has to get creative when attempting to get recruits to come to play for IPFW. If the player is good academically (which Gernon takes pride in trying to get such players), he will attempt to get them an academic scholarship or other such incentives. That was the case with St. Louis native Ryan Steinbach, who played for the Mastodons and was drafted in the MLB Amateur Draft by the Baltimore Orioles in the spring.

"I can put together a lot better package for kids if they have the grades," Gernon said. "We have limited money, but we do our best in divvying it out. "Due to the immense size of the senior class, the coaching staff would like to bring in an additional 7 to 10 players in this recruiting haul. Gernon will continue to scour the state and also look at junior colleges.

"Being ranked in the NCAA in some top categories and also having a player drafted really gets our name out there," said Gernon, who also said senior Ryan Keena has a chance to be drafted next year if he continues to get better. "That and our success has helped us out tremendously."

Gernon would like to bring three to four more impact players in this year's recruiting class, and has plenty of spots for them. But scholarships will continue to be a problem. "We only have a few scholarships left," Gernon said. "But I like our chances with some kids. I think this could end up one of the best recruiting classes we have had, apart from this year's seniors."

Mastodons refuse to rollover

West Point
By Nick West
nwest@ipfwcommunicator.org

Breslin Center's pressroom; 4:08 p.m., Sunday, November 27: Michigan State head coach Tom Izzo's post game interview.

"I think you've got to give IUPUI credit. They hit shots. This was a big game for them."

Say what?

"Guys were shooting threes, guys were driving around us."

What guys? The Jaguars?

"They didn't quit. Of our eleven turnovers, three were at the end."

Slow down, Tom, I'm lost.

The entire three hours before your press conference you coached your Michigan State Spartans against the IPFW Mastodons, not the IUPUI Jaguars.

In fact, for the first 17 minutes and eight seconds of the biggest game in its infantile Division I history, IPFW, not IUPUI, held off your No. 12-ranked Spartans of Michigan State.

Thevisiting Mastodons knocked down baskets, forced turnovers and bad shot selections, and had the Spartans against the ropes in front of 14,759 fans who came out to support the team for its first home game of the season.

But then a 12-2 run to end the first half put the Spartans ahead, 36-30, and for good.

"I thought we started out well," IPFW coach Dane Fife said before Izzo took the podium in the post game interview. "It just took Michigan State a while to get going. But our guys fought hard. You've got to give our guys credit. Michigan State is a very good basketball team, always has been, always will be. They are Michigan State."

You hit the hammer right on the nail head, coach.

It *was* Michigan State, and no matter how many floor and bleacher dives your guys made for loose balls just for a chance at a basket, the Spartans countered that with more size, speed and strength.

Six-foot-11, 270-pound Spartan center Paul Davis scored 30 points and grabbed 14 rebounds. IPFW had 24 rebounds as a team. The Spartans had 41.

Davis led a 42-14 points in the paint advantage. Michigan State had 14 second-chance points to IPFW's three.

The inside force wasn't all the Mastodons had to deal with.

Six-foot-five guard and John R. Wooden Pre-season All-American Maurice Ager pounded 20 points - 16 in the second half - down the Mastodons' throats. He, along with guard Shannon Brown, exploded to the hole with dunks that drew the crowd to its feet. Furthermore, a trio of Ager three-pointers during a five-minute and 17 second span in the second half helped balloon the Spartans lead from eight to 20.

But the Mastodons didn't quit. They wouldn't quit.

When Ager threw down a backdoor alley-oop dunk to give the Spartans an 89-62 advantage, Fife pulled forward Armend Ademi out of the game because he failed to cover Ager on the pick-and-roll.

This was with 3:37 remaining in the game. With IPFW down 18 points, shouldn't it be over?

Maybe last year under former coach Doug Noll, these Mastodons would have rolled over. Maybe Noll would have rolled over.

But that isn't the culture of IPFW basketball anymore. Not under Fife.

That was obvious when Brad Pompey took a head-first dive through the end of the IPFW bench chairs and into the front row just for a loose ball in the early parts of the second half.

It showed when Tyler Best grabbed a loose ball at center court (with the Mastodons down 61-46 with 10:49 left) and passed to Justin Hawkins who found DeWitt Scott for a lay-up. He missed but was fouled and went to the free throw line.

The game ended with an 11-0 IPFW run in the final 1:59, with IPFW freshmen and backups clearly out-hustling Michigan State's bench players.

This wasn't "clean up" or "garbage time," either. Izzo was furious at the lack of effort, calling out players in his post game press conference.

Sprinkled in between all of these hustle plays were more hustle plays and more dives and shoulders and elbows being thrown.

Yep, this is a changed men's basketball program. There will be no more rolling over or giving up.

Fife won't allow it.

"Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne played well," Izzo said toward the end of his post game interview. "They did a good job."

Now you've got it, Tom. Kind of. Technically, these "guys" are called IPFW. The whole Indiana-Purdue thing was nixed sometime earlier this year.

But I'm sure Coach Dane Fife and his players won't mind as long as a coach like yourself, who visits the NCAA Tournament every season, is complimenting them on their play against your nationally-ranked squad.

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Congratulations, basketball team

■ Skip covers events over the last two weeks, including coverage over the basketball teams, himself and answering readers' questions

Random Rants and Thoughts

Ask Skip Hooligan
sports@ipfwcommunicator.org

It's been almost two weeks since I've talked to you, and I'm sure you need your weekly dose of Skip. A lot has happened in the past two weeks, like the IPFW men's basketball team picking up its first victory. For that, I have some complimenting to do. Yes, that's right, I'm actually going to give some credit where credit is due. I will still rant about a few things in general that still chaps my ass a little bit, but overall it will be a more positive

Rant No. 1—The power of my article???

If you've read me for the last three weeks, you should know I pretty much rip the atmosphere at IPFW basketball games. I feel that I am pretty just in doing that, as there is a total lack of college atmosphere there.

Now, I attended the Homecoming game against Loyola-Chicago and I can't comment on that since the only thing I remember is Quintin Carouthers' alley-hoop dunk to start the game. But I attended the in-state rival and should-be conference game against Valparaiso, and there was a certain change in this game.

I will talk a lot more about the game in general, but there was something different going on, there were actually student contests!!! Not just one, but several. I was shocked, it was either the beer or I thought I was somewhere else there for a little while.

I also noticed the cheerleaders were gone from our end too, probably the best move ever. I can't stand hearing "Shoot For Two" and "Basket" from the cheerleaders when they are 100 feet away from me, much less five feet.

We also have the best damn mascot in college. I'd put Don against the San Diego Chicken. He's that good. I noticed he changed his song and still did a damn good job out there. It was refreshing, but I'm going to put in a request for some Dirty Diana the next time he dances.

What am I getting at you may ask? Give the students what they want and they will come out, at least I hope. At least I know someone is reading my article...

Thought No. 1 — Men's Basketball against Valparaiso

I have to give some credit now. I predicted the men's team would go 6-22 this year. Now, I still stick by that, but I have noticed something pretty early with them, they play with a lot of grit, kind of like how their coach used to play.

In the past couple years, we would have rolled over and died after we fell down 17-2 to Loyola-Chicago and trailed by 15 to Valparaiso, but in both games we fought back. I think a lot of credit has to go to Coach Dane Fife. He's animated on the bench and I think he's getting way more from the players he has than me or anyone else in the Blue and Brew Crew expected.

He even won a road game, his first win as a coach. An esteemed colleague of mine pointed out that we halted a 35-game road losing streak which extended back to February 2, 2003. Now, we had won a few neutral site games in that span, but no true road contests.

If Fife can keep getting the maximum effort out of these guys, we may win a few more games than expected. Hell, we should be 3-0 this year (not counting the Huntington College exhibition) because every game was ours to win.

The crowd this year has been better than I expected. In the past, when we started the "Defense" chant, the crowd just sat there and probably got a good laugh at the 20 drunken idiots standing five feet away from the visiting bench.

Now, they are helping us out. It's a thing of beauty in that people are finally starting to support us. If we can only get in a conference, our numbers would be a lot better.

Also, I am starting the campaign for DeWitt Scott for Independent Newcomer of the Year. I think he may be our most solid all around player right now. He never really does anything that impresses me, but does all the little things that are integral in games.

If the team can keep competing, more people will come out and see us. But people, never forget the guys who have been there through thick and thin (mostly thin), the Blue and Brew Crew.

There were still a few things that irked me.

We played a little out of control against Valparaiso. We played too up-tempo at times, running down the court on one-on-one situations in which we just took a bad shot or committed a turnover. We looked decent at times in our half-court offense; we just need to let it come to us.

Turnovers are another thing. We made so many stupid errors it wasn't funny. These are always a part of the game, but a lot of them were rushed decisions and cost us the game at the end.

Also, our interior defense is still bad. Their big guy killed us; I wish we had him on our team. I like big guys that can step out and flat out shoot. Fife please recruit us one of them.

Thought No. 2 — Men's Basketball against Michigan State

We lost 84-73, but we played a Top 15 team pretty well; I was impressed with our effort, especially with our reserves in the last three minutes when we outscored the Spartans 12-2. Now, is Michigan State overrated? Hell yes. Indiana will eat them inside if and when it gets a healthy D.J. White back.

I predicted that Michigan State's Paul Davis would have a huge game, and he did with 30 points and 14 rebounds. We are really missing a big man, as you can tell from above.

I was impressed with the arena and their band was a thousand times better than ours (not only in playing but cheering). Plus, watching a cheer and dance team with uniforms that fit and routines that are flawless was amazing.

Other than that, we played better than my expectations. I almost think we could start a smaller lineup against some teams and see more success.

Start Brad Pompey, Scott, Carouthers, Justin Hawkins and Kyle Savely and see how we do. I love the hustle of Savely and think he will be our starter at point guard somewhere down the line.

I think we could even pull an upset against a Purdue or Penn State. But perhaps, I'm the only one thinking that.

Predictions

I will start making predictions of IPFW men's and women's basketball games throughout the year, just to waste some space in my article.

The men's team has three games by the time the next issue comes out next week, with road games against Toledo and Illinois State and a home affair with Marygrove College.

Toledo 70, IPFW 61

The Rockets are predicted to finish third in the MAC West Division. I don't see us going on the road and winning against a MAC Team yet.

IPFW 65, Illinois State 64

This is a toss up.

Illinois State looks a lot like us in that they don't return a lot of experience. This could be a game where we can go in and sneak out with a victory. A lot of this hinges on if the Mastodons can play well again on the road. If so, they can pick up another victory.

IPFW 70, Marygrove 52

I don't know where to go with this.

They play in the USCAA. I have no idea what that is. If I wanted to research it you'd stop reading by this point. Anyways, they are from Detroit and play the likes of Indiana Tech and Taylor of Fort Wayne. If we don't kill this team, something is wrong.

The women have two games over the next week, here we go.

IPFW 80, Kalamazoo College 60

They should get their first win, pretty much by a landslide. If not, yikes.

IPFW 70, Tennessee Martin 69

I feel if they can play a MAC team pretty close on the road like we did last week against Central Michigan, they can sneak out a road victory here. Although it will be a tough one. I like the Lady 'Dons chance in this one.

Questions

I was actually asked some questions this week, by some certain freak of nature and will answer them as best as I can.

1.) Why do people mispronounce IPFW on TV or in the media, saying IUPUI, IUPU-FW, Fort Wayne IUPU, etc. Are people idiots? What is the deal Skip?—Ryan F.

Good question. I think a lot of it does with stupidity, the other part is, who actually knows us outside of Northeast Indiana? Probably not many, so until we make it big they will continue to screw up our name and be the team with a giant elephant on its logo (I've heard this before too).

2.) Will our men's and women's teams ever make any post-season tournaments?? Love the article - Kyle S.

In one word, no. We won't make an NCAA tournament until we join a conference, which seems like we have been searching forever and still no signs of joining one. Beyond the MAC taking us as a provisional member in some sports, I can't see them taking us in basketball. So, for now we'll play 18 road games and just play for glory.

3.) Fabiana Souza.....your thoughts...—Dirk B.

Weird question, but if you read my article you should know what I think of her. I wish her the best in her future as Nick Vest's wife or whatever else she decides to do.

That's it for this week. I'm up to 11 on my beer count at the men's home games and it's flowing pretty damn smooth so far, as it is for my Blue and Brew Crew brothers. Keep asking crap questions and I might answer them.

Highlights, scores and updates

Staff Report
sports@ipfwcommunicator.org

Souza named PDY

For the second time in her career, women's volleyball player Fabiana Souza was voted Independent Diffensive Player of the Year. The honor was voted on by head coaches and sports information directors at all Independent schools.

Souza was also named to the All-Independent First Team, the only Mastodon to be named to the squad. Senior Erika Leitzke and junior Nicole Howell were named to the All-Independent Second Team. Junior Claire Jackson was named All-Independent Honorable Mention.

Women's basketball drops first two

The IPFW women dropped back games they played last week to begin the season 0-2.

In their regular season opener on Nov. 16, the Mastodons trailed by just eight points at halftime to Bowling Green, but the Falcons dominated the second half en route to a 78-50 win.

Junior Ashley Johnson led IPFW with 12 points and five assists, while Johnna Lewis-Carlisle and Julie Holme each added 11. The Mastodons had a better showing on Nov. 26, but still fell short in a 69-61 loss to Central Michigan. IPFW trailed by 10 at halftime, but was able to keep within striking distance throughout the second half before losing by eight.

Johnna Lewis-Carlisle paced the Mastodons offense with 18 points, including 3-of-5 shooting from beyond the arc. Johnson was the only other IPFW player to post in double-figures with 10. The Mastodons open their home schedule Dec. 2 against Kalamazoo College

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The Communicator

Sports

Sports Editor
jenkin@ipfw.edu

Wednesday, November 30, 2005
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■ **Mastoons oon't quit**
West Point takes a look at the Mastodons-Spartans match on Sunday.
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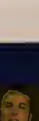

■ **Standing tall**
Big things are once again expected from sophomore guard Lewis-Carlisle.
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IPFW University Mastodons vs. #12 Michigan State University Spartans

■ IPFW loses early lead, but fights back to fall by 11 to nationally-ranked, 2005 Final Four participant Michigan State

Notebook

By Nick West
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It was more than a learning experience. It was an eye-opening experience.

For Coach Dane Fife, the 14,759 people in attendance for the IPFW-Michigan State game last Sunday was nothing new. After all, he played at Indiana University for four years in front of sold out crowds that often filled all 17,000 Assembly Hall seats. He's also played in the NCAA Tournament and the 2002 NCAA Finals in front of even more. But for some IPFW players, this was the big-time.

Dn top of playing in front of such a large crowd, the Mastodons faced the No. 12-ranked team in the country that made a trip to the 2005 Final Four last season and was defeated by eventual champion North Carolina. Furthermore, the Spartans are prime for another NCAA Tournament run as four starters and many key bench players return this season.

For IPFW junior guard Quintin Caroothers, who scored 10 points, knowing he was on the court where college greats like Magic Johnson have played was an awesome moment.

"That gave me goosebumps," he said.

Best nearly goes all the way

Looking at Tyler Best's stat line for the game box score, the center's 2-for-13 shooting performance seems quite abysmal. But move your eyes about six inches to the right and the number 36 pops out of the paper.

That is the number of minutes Best played out of 40. He played 34 of those straight, including the entire first half.

"The kid inside I thought did a very good job," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "Best, he knows what his limitations are and he shuffle dribbled in there."

Best often got the ball in the deep right post-position and backed down larger Spartan defenders, leaving many Mastodons open on the perimeter for a 12-of-25 shooting performance from behind the arc.

If he took the shot for himself, Best was able to do a series of up-and-under moves to create his own shot. But the baskets just didn't fall, many of them because the 6-foot-9, 240-pounder was out of gas late in the game.

He didn't get his first break until 5:54 left in the second half when Armond Ademi replaced him. Ademi left Spartan guard Maurice Ager open on a backdoor pick-and-roll alley-oop and Fife sent Best back in at the 3:37 mark.

Best finished with 11 points, six rebounds and two steals.

Savely provides spark

Guard Kyle Savely scored 12 of IPFW's 28 bench points in 16 minutes played.

The freshman looked impressive manning the point guard position and breaking a Michigan State press that was applied for about one-third of the game. He made hustle plays on a few loose balls - something coach Dane Fife highly expects from him. He was 2-of-2 from behind the three-point arc.

Mastodons bury 12 threes

IPFW rained three-pointers all game long, connecting on 12-of-25 for 48 percent shooting.

Knowing his team was outsized and out-muscled inside, Fife said he was satisfied with the amount of attempts from behind the ar

By Justin Kenny
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IPFW entered Sunday's game against No 12-ranked Michigan State as a huge underdog. But for most of the first half, it looked as if the Mastodons were the team to beat.

IPFW led for most of the opening half thanks to good three-point shooting, solid defense and missed Spartan opportunities, but eventually succumbed to Michigan State's talent and experience in an 84-73 loss. But if you looked for an IPFW player or coach with their head down after the game, you would have been looking for a long time.

"My teams are always going to come out and play hard and come out fighting, but we knew this would happen," Mastodons coach Dane Fife said. "But I think (Michigan State) was tired, period."

IPFW jumped out to a quick 8-0 lead thanks to three-point baskets by Tyler Best and Justin Hawkins, but the Spartans then begin to work the ball inside to senior center Paul Davis, who scored 14 points in the first 16 minutes of the game as Michigan State woke up.

"I'm proud of Dane Fife, his team and their effort," Spartans coach Tom Izzo said. "They hit shots we didn't expect them to make."

The Spartans played the Mastodons fresh off from returning from the EA Sports Maui Invitational, in which they played the equivalent of four and-a-half games in five days. Included in those games was a surprising loss to Hawaii and a three-overtime contest against No. 6 Gonzaga. Izzo said that his team hadn't practiced since the day before the Hawaii game on Nov. 19.

"I think we started off well," Fife said. "It took Michigan State a little while to get going, but you've got to give our guys credit, they came out and played hard."

Fife commented that the Spartans were "20 pounds bigger at every position and light years quicker" than IPFW, but the Mastodons stayed in the game. Michigan State did not gain its first lead until 17 minutes into the game when it took a 29-28 lead. The advantage stretched to 36-30 by halftime.

"I think you have to give (IPFW) credit," Izzo said. "Our defense was not good at times, but then they even hit shots when we were in their face."

The Spartans came out in the second half and showed why it is perhaps the best team in the Big Ten, pushing the lead to 22 before the Mastodons cut the lead in half by the end, thanks to superb play from the bench. IPFW continued to shoot well from the field in the second half, finishing 12-of-25 from beyond the arc.

"We want open shots for our shooters," Fife said. "I was satisfied when we were patient and got good shots."

The game had some personal meaning for Fife and junior Quintin Caroothers. Fife, who grew up in Michigan and was recruited heavily by Izzo at Michigan State before choosing Indiana, was given applause during warm-ups and was continually asked after the game about his feelings coming back home.

"It was great to be able to come back to Michigan and coach in front of my family and friends," Fife said. "I consider my home to be in Indiana now, but it was great to come back and be able to coach here."

For Caroothers, a Flint, MI native, playing just 80 miles away from his hometown in front of 14,759 fans got him ready to play even before the tip-off. The junior finished with 10 points and seven asslsts.

"Quintin got hurt in the Valpo game but came out today and played well," Fife said. "It meant something extra for him today."

The loss to the Spartans drops IPFW to 1-3, but the growth of the Mastodons was clearly on display in East Lansing. Whether it was holding a lead for the majority of the first half, coming back from a 22-point deficit in the second half, or showing more hustle than Michigan State at times, IPFW is showing its improvement every game.

"Back in the spring, I didn't think we had a chance to win a game," Fife said. "Well, we've won one, now we have a chance to win another at Toledo (on Wednesday, Nov. 30). Our kids have gotten so much better since the spring and I can't tell you how proud I am for having to go through what they went through, come together with eleven new guys, and become a team. I think we are right where we thought we'd be."

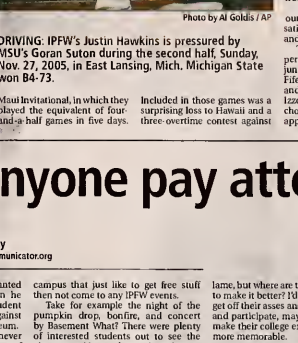
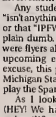


Photo by Al Goldis / AP

DRIVING: IPFW's Justin Hawkins is pressured by MSU's Goran Suton during the second half, Sunday, Nov. 27, 2005, in East Lansing, Mich. Michigan State won 84-73.

Does anyone pay attention here?



Cup of J
By Justin Kenny
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Athletic Director Mark Pope wanted to thank the student body when he allotted 3,000 tickets for the student section for the Dec. 18 game against Notre Dame at the Memorial Coliseum.

Pope knew full well we had never even gotten close to that amount of students at a men's basketball game, but his thinking was on the line of, "This is the biggest game in IPFW history, I'm sure more students will come out, right?"

Wrong. Just over 400 student vouchers were given out for the Notre Dame game, another example of sad state of student involvement on campus.

Any student that claims that there "isn't anything to get involved in at IPFW" or that "IPFW isn't a real college" is just plain dumb. Last time I checked, there were flyers all over campus announcing upcoming events. As for the second excuse, this past weekend I traveled to Michigan State to watch the Mastodons play the Spartans.

As I looked around, I saw dorms (HEY! We have those too!), a student union (Whatdya know!), and even a big arena (Memorial Coliseum anyone?). I'll admit MSU has a lot on IPFW, notably size and enrollment, but are we really that different that no one wants to come out and be involved?

A few weeks ago, it was Homecoming week. Now I disagree with some of the ideas that SAB has (theme days? What is this, high school?), but they came out and had a lot of activities set up each day for students.

I noticed that the free homecoming t-shirts went like wildfire, so I would think there would be a "Sea of White" at the weekend sporting events.

Ha! Boy, was I mistaken. Evidently, there are a bunch of freeloaders on campus that just like to get free stuff then not come to any IPFW events.

Take for example the night of the pumpkin drop, bonfire, and concert by Basement What? There were plenty of interested students out to see the giant pumpkin get dropped on the cat. but after that, where did everyone go? Yeah, I know it was about 20 degrees out, but there was a heated, enclosed tent where the band was playing. This band is good, everyone missed out. Nice student support folks.

Even worse was the night after. a home men's volleyball game and then a concert by Dave and Rae, perhaps the best cover band in the Midwest. By my count, over two dozen people were in attendance, two dozen!

That's amazing and embarrassing. You think Dave and Rae will ever come here again? I'm sure word will spread that IPFW student involvement is a joke and SAB or anyone else will not be able to bring other bands here.

Last time I checked we have some of the top volleyball programs in the Midwest, and our men's basketball team is coached by Michigan native and former IU basketball player Dane Fife.

Dur women's soccer team won their conference tournament just over a month ago. IPFW is lame? Maybe it's the student body that makes us get that moniker, not athletics or SAB events.

I am the vice-president of MIA, the organization that tried to get more students to athletic events and over the past few years I have put in countless hours to attempt to get people out to events, and you know what?

I'm tired of doing it, because no one cares. If we need to bribe people with free t-shirts and other stuff, that's a joke. Everyone makes fun of IPFW for being lame, but where are the people that want to make it better? I'd like to see students get off their asses and actually come out and participate, maybe then they could make their college experience a little bit more memorable.

You want to just go to school and not get involved? Then transfer your crap credits across the street to Ivy Tech, they are always looking for people with no drive and commitment to anyone but themselves.

Press releases

As The Communicator sports editor and an avid follower of IPFW sports, I have to address something that has bothered me for quite some time.

Dn Sunday, the IPFW men's basketball team gave No. 12-ranked Michigan State a run for its money in an 84-73 loss. Despite being at the game and being supplied stats by the Spartan Athletic Department, I still like to check out what the IPFW athletics website says, mostly for humor due to the writing and massive inaccuracies.

For instance, the first sentence of the game press release reads as follows, "A 13-3 run, midway through the second half, helped the 12th ranked Spartans of Michigan State hold off IPFW, 84-73, on Sunday afternoon in East Lansing, Michigan." Now folks, count with me, how many commas are in this sentence? Five. To anyone with a grasp of basic punctuation rules, three commas are needed. No wonder people do not take IPFW seriously.

Also, there was never, NEVER a 13-3 run by Michigan State in the second half. From the 12:40 mark all the way to the 7:13 mark in the second half the Spartans went on a 15-3 run on the Mastodons.

You may be thinking, oh ok, they had a 13-3 run then hit a two-pointer to make it 15-3, but no. A three-point shot by Michigan State's Maurice Ager made the jump from 12-3 to 15-3. There was NEVER any point in which the Spartans were on a 13-3 run.

Furthermore, two runs that were also cited in the press release were also inaccurate. In the comment that, "IPFW's lead vanished at the 2:52 mark, as the Spartans went on an 8-2 run to go into halftime up, 36-30," there are further mistakes.

Michigan State trailed 28-24 with 3:44 remaining in the half, then took a 36-30 lead into the break. By my math, that transcends into a 12-2 run.

Am I done? Not quite.

The press release says that, "IPFW closed the game out on a 7-0 run... but IPFW would fall to the 12th ranked Spartans by eleven." First off, the run was 11-0. Secondly, universal style writing says that any number over nine will be put in numerical form. So, instead of eleven, it should say, 11.

I could go on and on, citing many other press releases, but I think this is enough to get my point across. My point? You want to be professional? Make sure you have ZERO inaccuracies in your stories and use proper writing styles.

Is this a personal agenda for me?

Many will say so, but then again I don't care what people think. I do think it's embarrassing when you have a Valparaiso-IPFW press release on the front of the IPFW information packet at Michigan State and reporters from East Lansing are laughing at the lack of proper grammar and punctuation by the author.

How do we get IPFW do be taken seriously? Start with the small things, such as accurate press releases.